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No. 304 July 20, 2008

INSIDE

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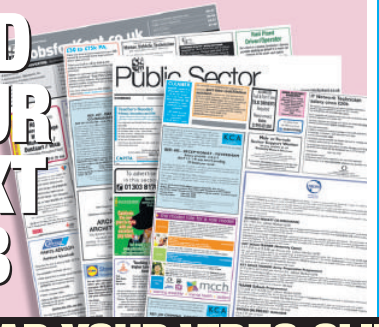

KENT STARS PREPARE FOR TWENTY20 FINALS DAY

SEE INSIDE SPORT FOR FULL STORY

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POLICE REFUTE RACISM CLAIMS

By CHRIS MURPHY

Force's top officers defend record in face of a black detective's claims of widespread racism in Kent Police

POLICE have reacted angrily to claims by a black detective that there is "widespread" racism in the Kent force – which has won awards for its anti-discrimination work.

Det Sgt Wendell Henry, who works at Canterbury police station, made the allegations during a live appearance on BBC South East Today.

But figures released to Kent on Sunday show there were just six allegations of racism made against Kent Police by the public from April, 2007, to March, 2008.

And that figure had fallen by half from the previous year, when 12 complaints were made.

None of the claims made against officers resulted in a misconduct hearing. There are currently three active cases.

The county's force has 3,759 police officers, 362 PCSOs and 2,664 police staff. They are led by Britain's only black chief constable, Mike Fuller.

DS Henry told KoS he was standing by his remarks, and would not be forced out of the police.

He said: "Prejudice, not only race prejudice, but all kinds of prejudice is running rife. I didn't join the police to be part of an organisation that encourages things like that, so I won't be part of it.

"I am not going to leave the police force – if I did they would just continue with it. I'll stick right here. If they think they have a problem with me, than that's fine."

When KoS put to him the Kent police figures for the number of official race complaints, he said: "People are refusing to make complaints because every time they make a complaint, nothing happens."

He said those stopped and harassed by police don't see the point in complaining.

DS Henry said: "I hear those people because I go out in the communities personally and I can tell you, in my experiences, the complaints are numerous.

"They refuse to come forward."

DS Henry was speaking after black man Alioune Haynes, from Gillingham, who has given diversity training sessions to police officers, was strip searched.

Mr Haynes made an official complaint after the incident in March, 2006, and claimed he was only stripped because of his colour.

DS Henry is a member of the National Black Police Association, and a former chairman of the Kent Minority Ethnic Police Association.

When DS Henry was asked on BBC TV how rife racism in Kent Police was, he

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

RACE ROW: Det Sgt Wendell Henry has angered officers

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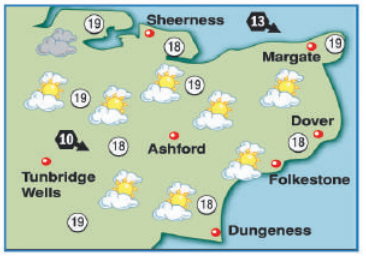
Kent today



TODAY: A bright day with lengthy spells of sunshine, however there will be a fair amount of cloud at times too with the odd shower. Moderate north-westerly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).
TONIGHT: Dry with plenty of clear intervals. Moderate north-westerly winds. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	14	57	London	fair	17	63
Belfast	fair	19	66	Liverpool	fair	19	66
Birmingham	cloudy	17	63	Manchester	cloudy	17	63
B'mouth	cloudy	18	64	Newcastle	fair	16	61
Bristol	fair	18	64	Norwich	fair	18	64
Cardiff	fair	20	68	Oxford	fair	19	66
Cork	cloudy	17	63	Southsea	fair	18	64
Edinburgh	fair	17	63	S'hampton	fair	17	63
Glasgow	fair	16	61	Southport	sun	18	64
Isle of Man	fair	16	61	Swansea	fair	18	64
Leeds	fair	16	61	Torquay	sun	19	66

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.01am	Sunset	9.01pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.58pm	Moonset	7.13am	9.01pm to 5.03am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	01.00	6.2	13.20	6.5	01.34	6.3	13.55	6.5
Margate	02.07	4.4	14.06	4.5	02.42	4.5	14.38	4.6
St Mary's	06.50	5.1	19.07	5.4	07.24	5.2	19.42	5.4

Week ahead

monday Dry. Fine. max 20C min 13C

tuesday Cloudy. Dry. max 22C min 13C

wednesday Sunny spells. max 24C min 14C

thursday Showers. max 27C min 15C

friday Largely fine. max 26C min 14C

saturday Showers. max 25C min 14C

Jam-busting M20 plan for driving on hard shoulder

Idea is part of £6bn national roads package

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DRIVERS could be allowed to use the hard shoulder of the M20 in a bid to tackle traffic jams.

The Government is considering what is called 'hard-shoulder running' to help commuters hit by regular motorway hold-ups.

Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly said the scheme is contained in a £6 billion package of improvements around the UK.

The hard shoulder is set to be used on the M20 between junctions 3 and 5, near Maidstone, plus on the M25, between junctions 5 and 7, running from Kent into Surrey.

Mrs Kelly said the schemes could be operating before 2014. Following the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study published in March, the Transport Department and the Highways Agency has announced a programme to investigate in detail deploying the hard shoulder more widely.

This work is looking at the costs and benefits of replacing planned motorway widening schemes with hard-shoulder running.

This work is due to be complete by the end of this year. One of the main issues surrounding driving on the hard shoulder is safety.

A Highways Agency official said: "The hard shoulder would only be used in busy times, have a reduced speed limit, very high visibility warning signs, and there will be refuges for broken-down vehicles every 800 yards."

Kent County Council's lead member for highways, Cllr Roger Manning, said: "The proposed M20 improvements will make a difference to congestion in the county.

"With more cars on the motorway there will be less pressure on smaller local roads."

Geoff Dossetter, of the Freight Transport Association, based in Tunbridge Wells, broadly welcomed the news.

He said: "The M42 experiment [in the Midlands] appears to be a success.

"Using the hard shoulder expands the useable space, cuts down on accidents and relieves congestion.

"The M20 is in dire need of improvements and widening. More and more lorries are using it and anything that cuts congestion must be a good thing."

But he is not happy with the general level of central government investment in the roads network.

He said: "The Government takes about £44 billion in taxes a year but only spends £7bn on the roads, which is simply not enough.

"The construction industry is in the doldrums and we need more roads built, so it seems a simple solution to two major problems facing the country."

The Government also wants to widen the M25 between junctions 1b and 3 in the Dartford area.

News and sport updated daily online
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'I think it's widespread in force'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

said: "Well, I think it's widespread in the force because the community is a reflection of who police officers are taken from.

"And we can't say that Kent doesn't have any racists. The police force hires from those communities so we must have racists in our midst."

But Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard told KoS: "Kent Police does not tolerate racism. Any allegation of racism, in the community or in this force, will always be investigated thoroughly.

"If any evidence is found then swift action will follow.

"Stop and search powers are useful in day-to-day policing, but it is expected they are applied in as fair, appropriate and courteous a manner as possible.

"Kent Police upholds high standards and ethics and is committed to fairness, equality and diversity in every area of its work."

Kent Police is one of only two police services in the country to have achieved 'excellent' status for race and diversity during assessments by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Dangerous

In 2006, Kent Police was presented with a Diversity Award by the National Black Police Association – the only police service in the country to receive such an award.

Mr Leppard said Kent Police have also organised two hate crime telephone reporting lines and on Thursday it is holding a diversity conference, Beyond the Rhetoric, in Ashford.

The event is for chief police officers, police authority chairs, partner agencies, the Home Office and the National Policing Improvement Agency and will look at the "sound reasons" for embracing equality and diversity.

And Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, called the allegation of widespread racism "dangerous, insulting and evidentially baseless".

He said the claim has caused anger and disgust amongst rank-and-file officers.

Mr Pointon said: "There is absolutely no evidence to support his allegation and his description of Kent Police is one I simply do not recognise."

He added: "If his allegation stood any scrutiny then I would have expected him to approach the Police Federation or chief officers.

"At no time has he ever come forward to me with evidence of widespread racism.

"Tackling prejudice and racism, wherever it surfaces is hugely important, but I fear that some will seek to use this unfounded allegation to undermine policing in Kent.

"As a consequence I suspect that police officers' jobs will be made more difficult today."

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To chav or chav not, that is the think tank's question

A LEFT-WING group want the word 'chav' eradicated from the English language.

The Fabian Society said the term is insulting to white working-class people.

The word, in its current form to describe a young-Burberry-clad yob, originally started in Chatham.

In the 60s and 70s is merely meant 'a man' and, before that, it was the Romany word for child.

But in the late 90s and into the new millennium, it changed again largely thanks to a sudden proliferation of websites, which reputedly started with one called chavscum, which has become www.chavtowns.

Now the Fabian Society, which calls itself Britain's oldest think-tank on political ideas, wants it binned for good.

They say it betrays a "deep and revealing level of class hatred".

The group says the stereotype description, applied to members of the white working class, is offensive to a group that cannot defend itself.

Tom Hampson, editorial director of the Fabian Society, said the term should become unacceptable to anyone who believes they are "progressive" in their politics.

He added: "You cannot consider yourself of the left and use the word. It is sneering and patronising and, perhaps most dangerous, it is distancing, turning the 'chav' into the kind of feral beast that exists only in tabloid headlines.

"This is middle-class hatred of the white working class – pure and simple."

Mr Hampson, writing in the quarterly Fabian Review, argues the word is "way above" the threshold of acceptability, especially when used "in normal middle-class conversation or on national TV".

Initially a term of abuse, it has become more insidious because of its far wider usage, he said.

On the chavtowns site, one local decries Hoo adding, complete with slang spellings: "Its full of pikeys and wannabee gangs… not even real gangs… especially one called the 'hoo boiz' who do less criminal activity than my nan… anywhoo… the whole population are pikeys, they have no money, don't work and scrounge off the Government… so generally all nice people…

"Along with Strood, Chatham and Gillingham, Hoo is becoming one of the anuses of Medway."

A poll on the site for the chaviest town in England this year showed five of the top 12 are in Kent; Dartford, Gravesend, Bromley, Chatham, and Sheerness.

Michael Gorman from the Queen's English Society defended the word.

He said: "It is not more offensive that the term yob or layabout. It does not invoke class hatred."

It is closely related is the Geordie word 'charver' while the Scottish tend to use 'ned'.

'Flattered' Jan's red tape role

A FORMER Kent police detective has been asked by the Home Secretary to come up with ways to cut red tape in the force.

Jan Berry, who was head of the Police Federation until she retired in May, had previously called for Jacqui Smith to resign, claiming she had "betrayed" the police.

But now Mrs Smith has asked Mrs Berry for ideas to reduce bureaucracy in the police.

Mrs Berry said: "I was both surprised and flattered to be invited to undertake this important new role which, after careful consideration, I am pleased to accept.

"I do not underestimate the challenge this presents and will not hesitate in drawing attention to unnecessary record-keeping or demands on police, wherever they may come from."

Shamed by the licence dodgers

CHATHAM is at the top of the Kent licence-dodgers' league of shame, according to figures released by TV Licensing.

More than 400 people were caught watching TV without a licence in Chatham during the first six months of 2008 – meaning the Medway town holds on to its dodgers' crown.

Following Chatham in the top five were Margate, Gillingham, Sittingbourne and Ramsgate. Anyone caught watching TV without a licence risks prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

Joanna Pearce of TV Licensing, said: "No town wants to appear in TV Licensing's league of shame.

"Buying a TV licence is simple and can be done in minutes online, so there's no excuse for licence-dodgers in Chatham letting the side down."

Princess opens up Windchimes

PRINCESS Anne has opened a resource centre in Herne Bay for disabled children.

Windchimes is a partnership between Kent County Council, Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust and the Children's Society.

The centre has been designed to meet the needs of children with a broad range of disabilities.

It has a spa pool, sensory room, soft play room, computer room and a multi-purpose hall with an adapted kitchen for use by the children.

There is a six-bedroom house, called the Beach Hut, where children with the most complex needs can stay for up to three nights to give their families a break.

The Princess Royal also visited Canterbury Prison to mark the 200th anniversary of the city's 'House of Correction'.

Redford joins fight against Kingsnorth

SCREEN icon Robert Redford has thrown his weight behind the anti-coal power at Kingsnorth campaign.

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

The veteran actor and Oscar-winning director released a statement through the World Development Movement pressure group calling for E.ON's application to run fossil-fuel units at the Hoo peninsula plant to be binned by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The statement was read at the WDM's 'Kent, coal and climate change' evening at Fort Amherst in Chatham on Thursday evening – just weeks ahead of the planned Camp for Climate Action protest, expected to be attended by more than 2,000 eco-activists.

The letter read: "To those gathered this evening around the proposed coal-fire power plant in your community of Kent, I congratulate all of you for coming together to learn more and to do more.

"Coal power plants are bad for public health; they are bad for the environment close by in proximity as well as much farther away as pollution is taken by wind and water; they contribute greatly to climate impacts in a highly negative manner; and thus are ultimately very bad for the local and larger economies.

"It is ultimately a bad investment on all levels. There are sensible alternatives involving conservation and sustainable sources of energy, which have none of coal's negative impacts.

"And we're seeing new jobs associated with sustainable energy sources, created in the new green economy.

"These are the reasons I feel that it is important to continue to fight against a proliferation of coal-fire power plants wherever possible."

The statement was read before a screening of the film Fighting Goliath: The Texas Coal Wars, narrated by Mr Redford.

The film follows city mayors, lawyers, environmentalists, ranchers, and CEOs in Texas who came together to fight the construction of coal-fired power stations in the state.

Mr Redford said: "The heart of this film is really about issues of health, future generations and the value of our own land and resources.

"The film was made to support the story of the Texas coalition and their struggle against a giant power company. It is our way of giving other states and communities a model for what can happen when people take personal responsibility and get results.

"We want to let people know that they don't have to give up hope. What happens in my community affects your community and what happens in yours, affects mine.

"It is with that in mind that I thank you for caring and learning, and asking tough questions and for raising your voices for the kind of community and future you will be proud to bestow on generations to come."

WDM representatives will join fellow eco-campaigners at next month's week-long Camp for Climate Action demonstration.

Camp organisers have pledged to shut Kingsnorth power station down during their stay and have revealed plans to launch sea, air and land protests against the site.

These revelations prompted E.ON chiefs to apply to the High Court for an injunction protecting operational areas of the station against any invading eco-campaigners.

The order was granted last month.

E.ON's head of business resilience, Graham Clarke, welcomed the ruling, saying: "Our prime concern is the safety of everybody at Kingsnorth power station, including anyone who tries to enter the site and interfere with operations."

The Camp for Climate Action runs from Sunday to Monday 11, August 3-11.

BACKING: Robert Redford is against plan

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Picture: LAUREN MUMFORD

You and whose army?

A PEACEFUL invasion is under way as Kent hosts the largest military extravaganza in the world.

The War and Peace Show at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, has attracted thousands of history buffs and military enthusiasts keen to get a close look at memorabilia including authentic wartime clothing, a fearsome German Panzer tank, a mine-clearing British Churchill MkVII tank, guns, vehicles and other machinery.

The annual event started on Wednesday and runs all weekend. The show, which is spread over 400 acres, has attracted people from as far afield as the United States, Holland and Germany.

Also among the attractions are jazz and jive dance, helicopter and tank rides, and a chance to meet special guests Buck Compton, Don Malarky and Earl McClung, former members of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division whose wartime exploits inspired the TV drama Band of Brothers.

Simon Delaney, who set up the Frontline Living History Association, restores tanks and other equipment, as well as collecting military clothing which is used in documentaries and films.

He said: "I come every year because we get to meet so many people from all over the world.

"Our display focuses on British military history. There is a big interest in the Germans and Americans, but it's important that Britain is represented. It's a great weekend, a holiday. We camp and get to meet so many people."

Gay bishop's Marsh visit

BISHOP Gene Robinson, the world's first openly gay and non-celibate Anglican bishop, gave a lecture at a tiny country church – which doesn't even have electricity.

On Friday he spoke just a few miles away from the 2008 Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops at Canterbury, from which he has been banned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams.

Bishop Robinson, 61, was at the 100-seat rural church of St Rumwold's in Bonnington – reputed to be the oldest church on Romney Marsh – as part of a yearly series of lectures.

Priest-in-charge the Rev Richard Love said: "They are always thought-provoking and challenging – no-one says you are to agree or disagree. Ignorance is the worst sin."

Soccer hub site

THE preferred site for Canterbury's long-awaited football hub has been announced.

Ridlands Farm, near Kent and Canterbury Hospital in the southern part of the city, was named by the council as the best site for the planned hub.

The development will provide a long-term home for Canterbury City FC as well as five-a-side pitches, an artificial pitch, grass pitches and a clubhouse featuring a gym.

Canterbury City FC will be organising a consultation event where people can find out about the plans and discuss any issues they may have with the project.

Drug crime leap 'a sign of success'

By **JAMIE McGINNES** and **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DRUG crime is up more than 18 per cent in Kent compared with last year, according to the latest figures.

Kent Police said the total of 3,524 recorded offences – up 548 on 2007 – was because of officers' success in destroying supply networks.

But a charity that helps drug addicts and alcoholics said it was concerned with the rise.

Overall crime in the county has dropped 10.3 per cent, with 15,133 fewer offences between April, 2007, and March, 2008, compared with the previous year, according to the Home Office figures.

Kent officers made 50,978 arrests – down from 51,984. Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "These figures are good news and make us more determined to improve our performance even further."

Offences dealt with by charge, caution, penalty notice or formal warning increased to 27.5 per cent – a rise of 2.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, 777 more crimes were brought to book – up 2.1 per cent to 38,214 offences.

And the chances of being a victim are less, with a lower crime rate now of 80 offences to every 1,000 of population.

Kent Police said it was "expected" that the number of drugs offences recorded would increase year on year – up 18.4 per cent, or 548 offences, to 3,524 crimes.

Mr Beautridge said: "Context must be applied here as we are targeting drug dealers. My message to dealers is: watch out. We will come after you and you will go to prison."

But Tony Williams, of drug and alcohol rehabilitation charity the Kenward Trust, based at Yalding, near Maidstone, said: "We are concerned about the rise in drug crimes in Kent and 18 per cent is very worrying.

"More needs to be done to help people with a drug dependency if we are to ever break this vicious circle of people who are using drugs committing crimes to get more drugs."

Incidents of violent crime fell by 2,701 offences (8.8 per cent) to 28,036. There were 77 fewer reports of hate crime (1,150). The number of incidents of criminal damage fell by 5,402 to 31,425, a drop of 14.7 per cent. There was a 14.5 per cent drop in vehicle crime, with 2,834 fewer offences.

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Victory starts when we all start washing our hands

WASH YOUR HANDS!
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CLEAN SAFE HEALTHY

Picture: BLART

THREATEN: Shopkeeper is confronted at till

Tractor used to delay knife thief escaping

A MAN who threatened a cashier at knife-point during an attempted robbery has been sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Samuel James Jeffery, 23, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to rob, taking a vehicle without consent and for driving without insurance, and received a concurrent sentence amounting to a jail term of 30 months.

On June 4, Jeffery, from Snodland, went into the Kent Mart Minimarket in Marden and threatened the cashier with a knife and demanded he hand over money. After unsuccessfully trying to open the till Jeffery left the shop empty-handed and got into a waiting car.

ATTACKER: Jeffery

A nearby tractor helped to delay his escape by boxing in the vehicle and Jeffrey was forced to smash his way out, damaging the car in the process.

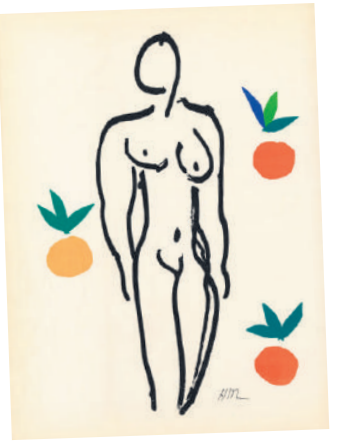
Det Con Wesley Marston said: "This is a great result and reflects the importance of high quality CCTV in identifying and detaining offenders.

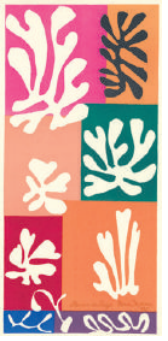
"Thanks to the excellent footage provided by the shop we were able to arrest and prosecute Mr Jeffery quickly, leading to his guilty plea.

"In addition, I would like to send my gratitude to the tractor driver who attempted to block in the offender and for his and other members of the public's witness statements, which also contributed to justice being served."

GETAWAY: Jeffery wields the knife on leaving

Exhibition shows works of art world's 'wild beast' Matisse





Pictures: ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION

A BOLD STATEMENT: (clockwise top left) Nu aux organges (Nude with Oranges), 1952-53; La Chevelure (Flowing Hair), 1952; Végétaux (Vegetation), 1952; L'Escargot (The Snail), 1952-53; Fleurs de neige (Snow Flowers), 1951

Cutting edge art

PRINTS of work by one of the most famous and influential artists of the 20th century have gone on display at Whitstable Museum and Gallery.

The exhibtion entitled Drawing with Scissors: Late Works 1950-1954 features lithographic prints of cut-outs made during the last four years of the Henri Matisse's life, when the artist was confined to his bed.

It includes iconic images such as The Snail and the Blue Nudes.

Matisse created art works using brilliant, pure colours. He and his friends became known as the 'Fauves' or 'wild beasts', because of their unconventional use of bold, vivid colour.

Doctors even advised him to wear dark glasses because the colours were so strong.

His works ranged from portraits and interior scenes to sculpture, murals, stage designs and stained glass and he continued creating work into his 80s.

When ill health confined him to bed, Matisse continued to work by 'drawing with scissors', cutting out shapes from paper hand-painted with gouache and directing assistants to pin them to his studio wall in abstract or figurative patterns.

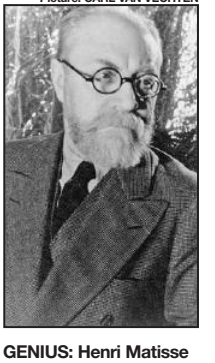
His vibrant works are celebrated for their extraordinary richness and luminosity of colour.

Drawing with Scissors, a Hayward Touring Exhibition from the Southbank Centre, presents lithographs from a special issue of the art review Verve, published in 1958.

The exhibition is on view in Whitstable until September 13, after which it will travel to Wales and Scotland.

Whitstable Museum and Gallery is at 5 Oxford Street and is open Monday to Saturday between 10am-4pm, and Sundays in July and August between 1-4pm. Admission is free.

Picture: CARL VAN VECHTEN



GENIUS: Henri Matisse

2,000-mile trip in Jessie's memory

TELEVISION presenter Rob Smith endured waves up to 20ft-high as he sailed around Britain to raise money in memory of a teenager who lost her desperate battle against leukaemia, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Mr Smith, who appears on BBC South East, sailed more than 2,000 miles anti-clockwise around the UK, starting and ending in Chatham.

He said: "We have just been told we have hit our £10,000 target for Leukaemia Research and more will hopefully arrive in the coming weeks."

There were highs and lows during the journey, but Rob said he kept a picture of tragic Jessie Whitmore close by for extra inspiration when things really got tough.

The 38-year-old said: "We never really feared for our lives, but there were times when the waves in the Irish Sea were reaching something like 20ft and the wind was blowing straight at us when we needed all the strength we had to stay focused.

"When you face daunting tasks like that, it is easy to lose that focus needed to avoid things like passing high-speed ferries and picking a safe route. The pictures of Jessie helped remind me that I was after all on something of a jolly which had a very serious point. It helped make sure we knew why we were doing this."

BACK HOME: Rob (far right) raised £10,000

Jessie, from Swanley, was just 17 when she died in 2006, having battled acute myeloid leukaemia.

Her diary over the last few months of her life is funny, intelligent, hopeful, and ultimately tragic. Her last written words were "I want to go home. I want my mum".

Rob said: "No-one should have to go through what Jessie and her family endured."

He covered her story for the BBC, and was so moved by her plight that he organised the round-Britain charity sail on a Sadler 32 yacht called Wild Rover.

He said: "There were times when we had to take shelter in some tiny ports because the weather was just too dangerous. It added a week onto the journey which should have taken three weeks.

"The weather was our worst enemy, but there were good times too. The best was when the weather was finally on our side near Bristol.

"As we made good speed, lots of dolphins came right up to the boat and swam alongside.

"They really were so close you could look them in the eye."

Rob, from Gillingham, said he was glad to get home and see his wife Gemma, 33, and children Charlie, five and Grace, three.

Over the next five years, Leukaemia Research wants to raise more than £100 million to commit to new research across the UK.

From basic laboratory research to clinical trials with patients, Leukaemia Research is committed to saving lives by funding high quality, carefully selected research throughout the UK.

If you would like to make a donation visit www.justgiving.com/sailroundbritain.

Further information, including patient information booklets, is available from www.lrf.org.uk or call 020 7405 0101.

Tannery's conversion to hotel will be good for city's business

CANTERBURY is set to host another boutique hotel – and its rivals have welcomed the competition.

Abode hotel and restaurant manager Steven Gee said more beds in the city would benefit everyone – including his own establishment.

The hotel group Hotel du Vin has purchased the large listed former tannery warehouse and drying shed on the corner of Stour Street and Lavender Mews and plans to convert the building into a hotel.

But while some hotel managers might find the prospect of a similar business opening just a few streets away a cause for concern, Mr Gee is more than happy about the plans.

He said: "Canterbury needs more quality bed stock. It will mean we can attract large conferences and events that at the moment the city cannot cater for.

Positive

"At the moment, if we get offered a big booking from a large client, for a conference or similar, we can only offer, say, 70 per cent of our bed stock. We like to keep the remaining 30 per cent back for our regular customers.

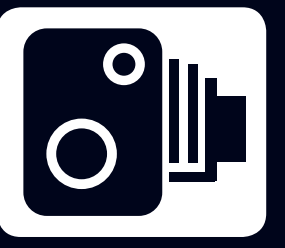
"If there was another hotel in the city offering a similar thing, then we could say to the client we'll give you 50 beds and they will give you 50 beds.

"One night they might dine with us, the next night at Hotel du Vin. It benefits everybody, it's really positive."

The 18th century former Connolly leather tannery represents the last significant undeveloped site within the city walls.

While most of the tannery site is being developed for housing by Bellway Homes, the original tannery buildings on the south side of the River Stour have remained empty and derelict for many years.

Housing will also form part of the development site, with consent given for 46 homes.



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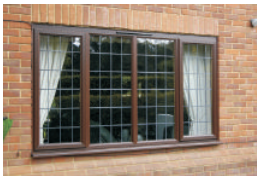

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FLAGSHIP: HMS Chatham in the Arabian Gulf

Captain narrows the UK-Iran gulf

THE CAPTAIN of a warship with close ties to Kent says it has helped make the Northern Arabian Gulf and Iraqi territorial waters a safer place.

HMS Chatham, which is affiliated with the Medway town, has been the flagship of a task force patrolling 3,000m exclusion zones around Iraqi oil platforms.

The frigate handed over control of the flotilla last week to America after four-and-a-half months.

Commodore Duncan Potts, of HMS Chatham, said meetings on the vessel between the Iraqi navy and its neighbours, particularly Kuwait, had been a great success.

"We've been able to get those two parties, with a toxic recent history, to start talking to each other."

Commodore Potts added: "I think we can look back on this period as a period of accomplishment.

"The oil has flowed every day uninterrupted, access has been gained to the main ports of Iraq uninterrupted and I think that from the posture that we have been able to achieve with the ships up here, the level of criminality within the area have been kept to a minimum."

Gurkha go ahead

Relief after fears Nepal would ban recruiting

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE hard-line Maoist government in Nepal has agreed the British Army can continue recruiting Gurkhas – for now.

The famous fighting men are based in Folkestone – but finding more recruits could end in just seven years when the Maoists will reportedly review the situation.

It was feared the new Nepalese government would forbid young men from signing up with the British military, and there were reports Nepal's borders would be totally shut off from the world following the abolition of the monarchy.

The MoD said the Government has yet to take full control of the country, and it is waiting to see what effect that will have once complete.

Shameful

Deputy Maoist commander, Janardan Sharma, has described the recruitment of Gurkhas into the British army as "shameful and humiliating".

He said: "It is wrong to sacrifice Nepalis to protect the sovereignty of foreign countries."

Despite that comment, the legendary Gurkha mountain men, whose service in the British Army helps support tens of thousands of people in their impoverished homeland, are still being allowed to sign up.

The new Maoist leaders were former far-left rebels who oppose foreign imperialism and it is understood they want to cut Nepal off from the rest of the world.

FIGHTING MEN: Gurkhas pictured in fierce fighting in Afghanistan last year

Nanda Kishore Pun, a deputy commander from the Maoist's People's Liberation Army, told local reporters: "We don't have any immediate plans to stop the recruitment of Nepali youths into the British Army.

"For the next few years we will be concentrating on bringing an economic revolution. Then we will deal with this issue."

He said a review of the recruitment policy would not come for "five to seven years".

Nepal is a poor country with an average annual wage of just £235, so many families rely on the money sent back to them by their Gurkha children.

Lok Bahadur Gurung, from the Nepal chapter of the British Gurkha Welfare Society, said: "At least 30,000 families depend on the salaries and the pensions of the British Gurkhas.

"They contributed significantly to Nepal's economy since the practice started nearly 200 years ago."

Around 200,000 Gurkhas fought for Britain during both World Wars and more than 45,000 have died in action.

They are paid around £12,000 a year on entry to the Army – more than 50 times the Nepalese average wage.

There are about 3,500 Gurkhas serving in the British Army, with 230 more joining annually out of 17,000 applicants.

Tikandra Dewan, chairman of the British Gurkha Welfare Society, said: "I can't see the Maoists stopping this recruitment.

"Only 230 come to the UK every year, but tens of thousands go to the Indian Army. Nepal is poor and relies on trade with India. Shutting the borders and keeping the outside world out would mean Nepal could fall very quickly."

A spokesman for the Nepalese Embassy said: "We have not been told anything officially yet – we are yet to hear what the government plans to do regarding Gurkha recruitment.

"What they say, they may not do. And what they do, they may not say. It is all very confused at the moment."

The Ministry of Defence said: "We are keeping a low profile in Nepal while we wait to see how things go with the new government.

"We are still recruiting and are keeping a close watching brief on the situation."

Meanwhile, Gurkhas who claim to be victims of racial discrimination over British settlement rights have won a judicial review following a High Court hearing in London.

Some 2,000 have been told they can't settle in the UK as they don't have "strong ties".

But Mr Justice Sullivan granted a representative group of veterans permission to apply for a judicial review of the lawfulness of a policy they claim is discriminatory.

The two-day hearing will start on September 16.

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Thursday 25th September 2008
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PARTY TIME: Book your tickets now

Demelza's party invitation to you

DEMELZA children's hospice is planning a special party to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The event – which is supported by KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper – will be at Gillingham FC's Priestfield Stadium, on Thursday, September 25, and the organisers promise fun, surprises and special guests.

Match of the Day presenter and former England striker Gary Lineker, who is Demelza's vice-president, said: "Demelza has grown a lot in the last 10 years and now cares for more than 450 children and families across the South East, but there are so many more that the charity can reach with your support. Whether it is filling a £10 clown or having your own fund-raising party, you can help Demelza add more life to days when days cannot be added to life."

Demelza's Sue Piper said: "We are going to be celebrating this special birthday in style and want people to come along and join the fun – so contact us now to secure your place".

If you can't join the party in September, there are lots of other ways you can have fun through a variety of campaigns to help celebrate the milestone.

All fundraising efforts will help to ensure Demelza, at Bobbing, near Sittingbourne, continues its crucial work.

To book tickets, which cost £75, for the birthday celebration call 01795 845288, email events@demelza.org.uk or visit www.demelza.org.uk.

Special school to move to new site

PARENTS have been invited an exhibition about plans to move a special school.

Kent County Council has proposed relocating Grange Park School, in Leybourne, to the Wrotham School site.

The meeting, at Wrotham School on Monday, from 4pm-8.30pm, is for families of pupils and those living near the school.

Grange Park, at Leybourne Grange, is a special school for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder.

KCC says the site is no longer fit for purpose and relocation to Wrotham offers an opportunity to secure new high quality teaching facilities and co-educational provision, to the benefit of both schools.

KCC cabinet member for education operations, resources and skills, Cllr Mark Dance, said: "People are being asked for their views about moving Grange Park to Wrotham.

"The open exhibition will show families what will be available should the proposal go ahead, and people living in Wrotham will get an idea of the building and layout proposed."

Widow defends her castle home from 'heritage at risk' claim

By **NICK AMES**
nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

THE wife of the late Tory MP Alan Clark has dismissed claims that her family home – Saltwood Castle – is in danger of becoming decrepit.

English Heritage has placed Saltwood Castle, near Hythe, on its 'at risk' list which warns of historic monuments that are in danger.

The condition of the building is officially classified as 'poor'. An English Heritage official said: "We issue the list to warn about parts of this country's heritage and history that are in danger.

"In common with many part-occupied or ruined castles, English Heritage believes Saltwood Castle has repair needs that could be addressed. This is not a criticism of lack of care by an owner, merely a fact of life.

NO RISK: Owner Jane Clark

"We are reviewing the condition of individual scheduled monuments across Kent as part of our Heritage at Risk project and in this we would include Saltwood Castle. We are likely to discuss with its owner of what assistance we might be in helping them care for such a significant place."

Mr Clark's widow, Jane, has lived at the Grade I-listed castle for more than 30 years. The father of the late Tory MP bought it in 1955.

She said: "The last time anyone from English Heritage came here was 15 or 20 years ago and they have not been in touch about this latest list. I would very much like to hear from them, in fact. I do not know in what particular way they consider the castle at risk. Maybe there is too much greenery around here for their liking. I think possibly they like to have a few rolling concerns as this is not the first time such a notice has appeared about my home.

SOLID CITADEL: Alan Clark's widow Jane denies that Saltwood Castle is in danger

"It's possible they think if they say things like this people will spend a few thousand on the upkeep of old buildings."

Several years ago Mrs Clark was forced to sell off her late husband's impressive wine collection in order to pay for the castle's upkeep. But she said she has no immediate plans for similar action in the wake of the latest statement from the conservation group.

The first castle at Saltwood was built in 488 by Aesc, son of Saxon warrior Hengist, king of Kent. In 1026 King Canute signed it over in part to the Church by means of a deed now in the possession of the British Museum.

The knights who killed Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket stayed at Saltwood before his murder.

Saltwood Castle was also the childhood home of former Daily Telegraph editor and Tory MP, the late Bill Deedes.

News and sport updated daily online
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Dear sir: Clive becomes a Facebook cult

WRITE ON: The very real Clive Wilkins-Oppler

HIS letters have become a familiar sight in this newspaper and a host of other Kent publications – and now an online appreciation society has been formed for the man behind them: Clive Wilkins-Oppler.

Canterbury's most prolific letter writer, Mr Wilkins-Oppler has become a familiar name to both editors and readers alike throughout Kent and beyond, thanks to his views on everything from antisocial behaviour to modern art.

And he has become a cult figure on social networking website Facebook, with a group set up in his honour and new members signing up daily.

Some readers were convinced he was fictitious, yet in an interview with KOS Media the very real Mr Wilkins-Oppler, 38, revealed that his love of writing stems from an early life which he describes as "tragic".

The former St Edmund's School boy was a star pupil but suffered a breakdown in his early 20s that left him with many problems.

He said: "I suffered from depression and anxiety disorder throughout my 20s and found it difficult to hold down a job. I do lots of voluntary work when I feel well enough, but I wanted an outlet for my writing.

"I was good at English at school and I wanted to do something useful. When I got to 30, I thought I should start writing. It's therapeutic in a way.

"I care a lot about green issues, both locally and on a wider scale, and about antisocial behaviour. It seems to me there's a general coarsening of society."

The Facebook group, which already has close to 50 members, features a number of Mr Wilkins-Oppler's letters.

In addition to his regular missives in this newspaper and our sister title Yourcanterbury, his letters are also frequently printed in the pages of other local papers. He has also aired his opinions in a host of national titles including the Mirror and the Independent, as well as the London Evening Standard.

Originator of the Facebook group, Andrew McFall, said: "Clive has become something of a cult figure.

"There's also a certain mystery about this elusive character. Personally, I used to suspect that he was fictitious, but that's clearly not the case."

DJ Evans falls from heavens with Tigers

FALL GUY: Chris Evans gives the thumbs up during his jump

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

RADIO DJ Chris Evans jumped out of a plane from 13,000 feet with a Kent-based parachute display team.

The 42-year-old leapt from Foxy Lady, a Cessna 208 Caravan, above Salisbury Plain on Tuesday afternoon.

He had taken up his personal challenge to "conquer his fear of death", which has dominated the airwaves on his Radio 2 show for the past three months.

Nine members of the Canterbury-based Tigers Parachute Display Team trained Mr Evans in tandem sky-diving before he was strapped to team leader Corporal Dave Clarke for the 35-second freefall.

Speaking before the jump, Mr Evans said: "I'm a control freak, so to relinquish it will be really tough. But I'm jumping with the best of the best, so I'm in good hands."

Watched by his wife Natasha – who was safe on the ground at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Nertheravon – Mr Evans could be heard whooping and screaming as he came into land.

"That was amazing," he said, as he reached the ground. "It felt like it was over in seconds. There's no time to be scared. It was great, just amazing. I sang Are You Ready for Love all the way down.

"I always say the best story has a beginning, middle and end, but there wasn't time for any of that, it was just one big hit from the moment I sat in the door to when I landed. An awesome, awesome experience – I can't wait to do it again."

The Tigers are drawn from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Kent's county regiment.

• A member of The Tigers was hurt at the Kent Show last week. He had been taking part in a display at the County Showground at Detling Hill, near Maidstone, when he plummeted into the Agricultural Field, at 3pm. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

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Conman fed clients lies as he made £440,000

A FINANCIAL adviser who swindled £440,000 out of his customers has been jailed for three-and-a-half years, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Two of the conman's victims were in their 70s.

Gordon Benville, 50, from Walmer near Deal, had previously pleaded guilty at Canterbury Crown Court to 12 offences of obtaining money transfers by deception, totalling £440,637.64, as well as four fraud offences.

Benville had been trading under the name Kingsfield Commercial Funding when Kent Police's Serious Economic Crime Unit began an investigation following reports from two people concerning the financial advice he had given them.

Friendship

It was discovered he had conned several others, including two pensioners, and as a result he was suspended by the Financial Services Authority and his assets were frozen.

Kent Police said many of the victims, including a 74-year-old man and 72-year-old woman, had been left with financial problems.

Nigel Pilkington, head of the South East complex casework unit, said: "Gordon Benville appeared to be plausible and talked with apparent expertise, but he took the life savings of trusting individuals and caused real financial hardship.

"He did this with ease and without conscience and provided them with false information."

Many of Benville's clients were friends of his whom he encouraged to sign incomplete mortgage applications which he later completed himself, asking for a higher amount than was actually needed.

Mr Pilkington said: "He lied from the start. In some cases victims' life savings were wrapped up in these arrangements. He took advantage of his friendship with the victims and breached the trust imposed on him by his professional body."

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has begun paying claims against the independent advisor. Anyone who has dealt with Gordon Benville trading as Kingsfield who believes they may have a claim can phone the FSCS on 020 7892 7300.

JAILED: Gordon Benville pleaded guilty

Cyclist, 17, dies in coach crash

A 17-year-old schoolboy cyclist has died in a traffic accident.

Kent police's serious collision investigation unit have appealed for witnesses who saw the incident to contact them.

The accident happened just before 6.50am on Tuesday, July 15, on the A228 at West Malling, at the junction with Station Approach, about two miles from the Kings Hill roundabout.

The boy, who was cycling, was involved in a collision with a coach.

There were no passengers on the coach.

The teenager's family have been informed about the death, and the coroner's officer notified of the incident.

The road was closed while emergency services attended the scene of the collision and reopened at 11am.

Anyone who saw the collision have been asked to contact the police's serious collision investigation unit witness line on 01622 798538.

Thieves target site once again

A ROUND-THE-CLOCK security presence could not stop thieves raiding a regeneration site for the second time in a week – stripping away more than £200,000 in steel posts.

The thieves forced open the perimeter fence at the Rochester Riverside site and unbolted 82 posts and 200 handrails.

The thefts have forced bosses to close the walkway and cycle path running across the development, just five weeks after it was opened.

It is believed the steel was stolen to sell on for cash. Police have said metal theft is the fastest increasing crime in the country due to soaring prices.

Thieves took 100 posts and 148 handrails from the site on Tuesday, July 8, after breaking into the site through a set of security gates.

Mystery blaze

POLICE are investigating a suspicious fire at a flat in Tunbridge Wells.

No one was in the flat when the blaze broke out at around 1.15pm on Friday, July 11.

Police say they are following a number of lines of inquiry into the incident and would like to talk to the driver of a red car parked near an alleyway on Showfields Road at the time the incident happened.

Anyone with information can contact the police on 01732 379217, Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or email to appeals.west-kent@kent.pnn.police.uk.

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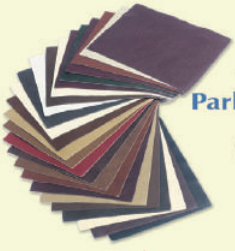

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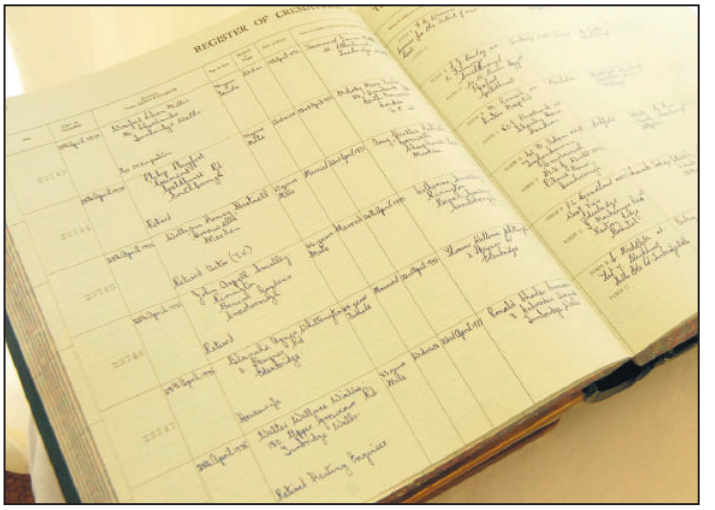

CLICK AWAY: Tunbridge Wells' death records can be found at www.deceasedonline.com

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.com

Death records uploaded on the web

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT council has become the first in Britain to puts its death records online.

The initially free service from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will help families trace lost relatives and complete family trees.

Included in the list of death certificates now online is Sir Robert Gower MP and his daughter, pioneering aviator Pauline Gower; Henry Peach Robinson, pioneer of art photography; and Dr Who actor William Hartnell.

The online database and search service holds records from the Kent and Sussex Crematorium and Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery from the past 135 years.

The new service is run by a company called Deceased Online.

The council's records include 130,000 names from the burial and cremation records and other related data going back to 1873. The data will be continuously updated.

Searches are free but further details will be chargeable said the council, with the fees being shared between the authority and company.

Deceased Online will allow the general public to eventually search millions of UK burial and cremation records.

The council said this method of online data 'shopping' is well established within the family history and genealogy communities, with many internet services offering data and search websites.

Genealogy and family history research is now the second most common use of the internet, with millions of people regularly using online research facilities.

But until now there has been no UK national online database of burial and cremation register records and researchers have been frustrated in not being able to access this information.

Cllr Paul Barrington-King, portfolio holder for environment, said: "We are proud to be the first council in the country to have its cemetery and cremation records available on the new Deceased Online website.

"This new online facility is going to be a great source of information for those searching for their family history and we are delighted that our data can be accessed by people anywhere in the world."

And John Rickwood, director of Deceased Online, added: "We are absolutely delighted with the response from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

"Their support and enthusiasm in adopting Deceased Online's services has been extremely positive as they have a vision that matches ours."

Further information available could include scans of original register pages, maps of cemeteries and gardens of remembrance to locate graves and memorials, photographs of headstones, and details of all interments in a grave.

• ***You can see the records online at www.deceasedonline.com.***

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Challenging time ahead in wait for new homes

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUSANDS of people on the housing waiting list could be set for frustrating delays after the Government said meeting its own building targets would be "a challenge".

Housing minister Caroline Flint admitted its aim of building three million homes in Britain by 2020, including 6,886 a year in Kent, will be hard to meet.

The targets have been hit because some house builders are cutting back their operations in response to the credit crunch.

And a Labour MP reacted angrily because there are so many people waiting for a home in his constituency.

Derek Wyatt, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "We have 35,000 families on the waiting list in Swale and priority now needs to be given to building social housing first."

Kent County Council refused to comment, but many councils believe the local targets can be met.

House building hot spots include the Thames Gateway and Ashford.

The minister's admission came just weeks after the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit, an independent body set up by the Government, said between 18 and 55 per cent more houses should be built on top of what the government was already planning.

Speaking on Radio 4's Today programme, Ms Flint said: "It is a challenge, there is no doubt about that, in terms of looking at the number of homes that haven't been completed or aren't being started this year."

The minister recently had her notes on her department's feeling on the housing market photographed, and the words "We can't tell how bad it will get" could be read.

Ms Flint added: "We still need to build more homes. The need for three million homes is a valid target.

"How we get there, we are going to have to look at the present circumstances but there is no doubt that we need to deal with the present situation and also look at how we prepare conditions so when the market picks up, and it will pick up, we are able to move rapidly to get our house building up to speed."

Adam Holloway, the Conservative MP for Gravesham said many people in his constituency were dismayed at the level of building planned.

He said: "If I was a Labour backbencher I would be telling you this off the record, but people are cheesed off at all this building planned in their areas which will be wiping out any feeling of community.

"I am delighted the minister thinks meeting their completely unrealistic targets for new home builds is going to be a challenge – it can only mean many more communities will be saved from being so over-populated and suffering all the consequences like high crime and vandalism that goes along with that."

The news came as 5,000 building jobs in the UK were lost.

Bovis Homes, based near Longfield, is cutting its workforce by around 40 per cent. It has 285 staff in the South East region and consultations should be complete within a fortnight.

A spokesman said: "Staff are affected across all business disciplines. We are keeping the progress of our construction sites under close review."

The company said profits will be affected by the downturn in demand with first-time buyers finding it hard to get on the property ladder.

But John Ryall, from Medway Renaissance, said: "Medway's regeneration programme is on course to deliver some 16,000 new homes and more than 20,000 jobs.

"The first of those homes – around 600 – are due to be built by Crest Nicholson in a year's time on the flagship Rochester Riverside regeneration project."

Crisis

When complete, the scheme – for years a scene of industrial dereliction – will be home to a waterfront community of 2,000 homes.

Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council leader, said: "The Government's housing targets in the South East were madly high, so this is no surprise.

"The key thing is not the volume of building but the quality. It's all very well to throw up high-density flats and say you are dealing with the housing crisis, but no-one seems to have learned from the disaster of the sixties."

A spokesman for Ashford's Future added: "We recognise the difficulties being experienced in the housing market.

"However, there is no reason for alarm; the housing downturn is unlikely to significantly affect the planned expansion of Ashford in the long term.

"We have a 30-year growth period and there are bound to be fluctuations in the market.

"Despite the economic downturn, Ashford is well-positioned to weather the storm."

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HARD WORK: Caroline Flint admits the Government faces a difficult time in the race to meet its own housing targets

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Hammer attack on pub windows

A MAN smashed windows with a claw hammer at a pub in Tonbridge High Street.

The midnight attack took place at the Chequers on Friday, July 11, and caused damage estimated at £3,000.

The vandal is white, aged 35-45 and about 5ft 10ins. He was wearing dark-coloured trousers with reflective bands around the legs and a light coloured top.

Anyone with information can contact the police on 01732 379217 or by email to appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk.

Pop along for the karaoke contest

WOULD-BE pop stars are being given the chance to impress the crowds at Erith Riverside Shopping Centre.

Shoppers will be able to perform a song of their choice, karaoke-style, before a panel of judges who will choose the best.

Shoppers can win on vocal ability and entertainment value, so feel free to dress up and do your best impersonation.

The winner will be presented with a personalised star award and prizes. To join in, meet at the top of the escalators in the centre between 11am-1pm on Tuesday, July 29.

Good nudes, dear

A NATURIST couple from Romney Marsh have won more than £240,000 on the National Lottery.

Brian Tucker, 59, and Margaret Dallard, 53, met while working at Dungeness power station. The ticket was bought from the village store in Dymchurch.

Brian had checked the numbers on Teletext.

He said: "We just started hugging each other and jumping round the room."

Wide range of charges faced over three years

Figures reveal 34 arrests of serving officers by police

By **SIMON ROBINSON**
simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THIRTY-FOUR Kent Police officers have been arrested during the past three years.

Figures released in response to a Freedom of Information request made by our sister paper Yourmedway show the arrested officers faced a total of 14 charges including indecent assault, perverting the course of justice and criminal damage.

From 2005 to date, 23 officers – employed to bring down crime and make the county safer – were subsequently charged with breaking the law. Former Medway police sergeant Zak Owens was jailed for seven years in March after trapping a terrified family in their car and threatening them with a CS-style pepper spray.

Owens, 37, of Highgrove Road, Chatham, held the Shahs prisoner for more than two hours in August after a car sale with the family fell through. The officer – who patrolled Medway and North Kent during his time in the force – was still serving with Kent Police at the time of the crimes.

He was found guilty of false imprisonment, misconduct in a public office, theft and possession of a firearm while committing an offence. He was dismissed from Kent Police in November, last year, at the end of a disciplinary process.

A force spokeswoman said Owens had taken details from people's credit cards while they were in police custody.

He also carried out fraudulent transactions on the internet, including buying foreign currency and then cashing it.

A spokesman for the force said: "Kent Police currently has 3,759 police officers, 362 PCSOs and 2,664 police staff.

"The force expects its officers and employees to maintain the highest level of professionalism and honesty at all times, both on and off duty.

"Incidents of dishonesty by police officers are very rare. Kent Police's policy is that any criminal offence or misconduct is not tolerated and will always be the subject of a thorough investigation.

"Where the Crown Prosecution Service considers there is sufficient evidence, police officers and police staff will be charged."

Sixteen officers were arrested in 2005, falling to nine the following year, eight in 2007 and one so far this year.

Of those questioned, nine were charged in 2005, eight in 2006 and five last year. The officer arrested this year was also charged.

Offences include common assault, criminal damage, excess breath alcohol, theft, false imprisonment, fraud, GBH and harassment.

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A vision of Holy Maid

IN Best Lane, a quiet side street off Canterbury High Street, lies the Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine, ***writes Father Damien Mead***.

Blink and you'd miss the tiny chapel, but it is home to a religious icon which commemorates a largely forgotten piece of Kent's history.

In her time, the Holy Maid or Holy Nun of Kent, Elizabeth Barton, would have been as famous as St Bernadette of Lourdes.

Little is known of the Holy Maid's early life, although she appears to have come from a poor background, as she was working as a servant when her visions began in 1525.

During that year she suffered from a severe unknown illness. At the Chapel of Our Lady, Court-at-Street, near Aldington, she was healed upon witnessing a vision of the Virgin Mary, who instructed her to light a taper (candle) at her shrine.

Thereafter Elizabeth's visions either predicted future events or, more frequently, took the form of pleas for people to follow the teachings of the Catholic Church, attend Mass and make their confessions.

In particular, she urged people to pray to the Virgin Mary and undertake pilgrimages.

Shortly after she had begun receiving visions, she entered St Sepulchre's Convent in Canterbury – in the area known as Nunnery Fields – and became a Benedictine nun.

She rapidly became popular among rich and poor alike. Elizabeth held a private meeting in 1528 with Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the most powerful man in England after King Henry VIII, and shortly after met the king himself on two occasions.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth, the existing order changed when Henry, to obtain an annulment from Catherine of Aragon, decided to break with Rome, and create the Church of England. Elizabeth was strongly opposed to the Reformation.

During her trances, the Holy Maid urged Henry to give up his plan to divorce Catherine of Aragon, and prophesied that if he did so he "should no longer be king of this realm ... and should die a villain's death".

In 1532 Henry passed through Canterbury and it is reported that she forced herself into his presence and tried once again to ask him to give up his marriage to Anne Boleyn.

However, Henry's marriage to Anne was celebrated in January 1533, followed in May by annulment of the marriage to Catherine.

Elizabeth's statements were seen as increasingly inflammatory and treasonable. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (who performed Henry's annulment) had Elizabeth arrested and interrogated, at which point she confessed that she had feigned her trances and invented the religious visions. However, this confession appears to have been fabricated.

At the conclusion of the trial it became clear that there was insufficient evidence to convict either Elizabeth or her companions.

These were: Dom Edward Bocking, a Benedictine monk of Christchurch Priory, Canterbury, the Holy Maid's confessor; Dom John Dering, a Benedictine monk who had written a book about her revelations; Father Henry Gold, former vicar of Ospringe, who had been secretary to the late William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury; Father Richard Risby, guardian of the Franciscan Friars in Canterbury; and Father Hugh Rich, one of his Franciscan brethren.

In January, 1534, Henry VIII gave Royal Assent to a bill of attainder (an Act of Parliament) that condemned the Holy Maid and the others to death.

They were hanged at Tyburn on April 21, 1534, in the presence of an enormous crowd. Elizabeth's head was displayed on London Bridge – the usual practice for traitors.

Although never formally canonised by any part of the Church and with references to her in the history books blackened by the Reformers, she nevertheless remains a Holy Maid of Kent.

Elizabeth Barton's icon in our church was 'written' (as the painting of icons is described) by Marice Sariola, a Finnish iconographer living in Australia, in February 2008. We believe it to be the only such depiction of Elizabeth in the world. The icon can be viewed at St Augustine's, 5b Best Lane, Canterbury. Telephone: 01797 321704

• Father Damien Mead is the parish priest of St Augustine's Church. In March he was elected Bishop of the Diocese of the UK and will be consecrated in September.

DEVOUT VISIONARY: Elizabeth Barton as depicted on Marice Sariola's icon

QUIET CORNER: St Augustine's Anglican Catholic Church in Best Lane, Canterbury, houses the Holy Maid of Kent's icon

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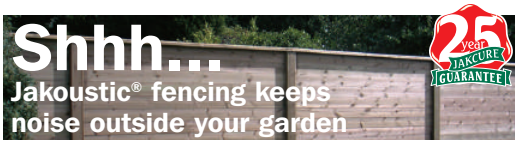

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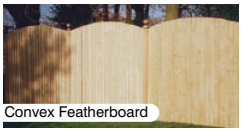
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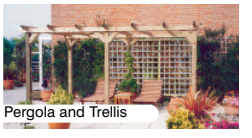
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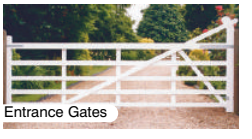
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The aliens are invading!

When most people think about aliens, plants are not usually the first thing that springs to mind, but for Kent Highway Services, alien, invasive plants are a very real problem.

After habitat destruction, alien (or non-native), plant and animal species are one of the greatest threats to biological diversity worldwide. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and rhododendron are just three examples of exotic species introduced into the UK as ornamental plants. They all have the capacity to grow in dense stands which quickly dominate natural habitats, shade out native species and reduce biological diversity as a result. In the case of some species, there can also be health hazards – giant hogweed sap on your skin can cause severe blistering.

So where do we come in? Well, these non-native species are often found in or adjacent to Kent's highway verges where they can easily spread, so it's important that they are properly controlled. We identify such plants in locations where highways works are planned and carry out carefully managed control programmes to avoid accidentally spreading the plant when we remove it.

Various techniques are being developed to control these plants including herbicide treatments and the disposal of root-contaminated soil to authorised landfill. However, effective control often requires long-term treatment lasting several years, long after the works have gone. You can find out more about the work that we do on our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Kent gives a polished performance

The efforts of the Kent Highway Services Alliance were recognised by the Institute of Civil Engineers last month when they were crowned overall winners of the Brassey Awards 2008.

The awards were set up by the Institute of Civil Engineers and are named after Thomas Brassey, who was responsible for approximately one third of the railways built in Britain during the height of railway construction in the 1840s.

The aim of the awards is to recognise the work of civil engineers and they are presented to projects that best meet the Institute's vision of 'Civil Engineer's at the heart of society, delivering sustainable development through knowledge, skills and professional expertise'.

A record number of entries were received this year and the Kent Highway Services Alliance scooped the 'Transport Project' award and was named overall winner for the East Kent Access Phase 1 project. The project was a £23 million road improvement scheme that included working closely with Southern Water Services and the Environment Agency for significant elements of the project.

However, the winning didn't stop there. We were also winners of the small project category for the reconstruction of Bilsington Bridge and runners-up in the transportation category for the Fastrack Thames Way Ground improvement scheme.

We're working hard to continue raising the standard of all the work we do and these awards show that we're going in the right direction.

Working together works!

At Kent Highway Services, we get involved in many major transportation schemes, but you might not realise how many different organisations need to work together to deliver these often complex projects.

A prime example of this is the recently opened A256 East Kent Access Phase 2. This £23m scheme relied heavily on major contributions from our external partners, the Environment Agency and Southern Water. We also had to try new ways of working with the contractors, May Gurney, to overcome challenges with water mains, sewers, sluice gates, flood relief courses and land availability. Working closely together meant that we were able to complete the scheme on time and to the highest standard. There was another benefit too: by working together the scheme partners managed to find savings through 'value engineering' that totalled £766,000.

At the other end of the county, on the A226 Thames Way at Northfleet, a major ground improvement scheme across a landfill site enabled a new bus lane to be opened. A range of contamination issues required an innovative, long-term solution to prevent a chalk aquifer, used for ground water extraction, being affected. We worked closely with the Environment Agency and their help was invaluable in overcoming the problems of this site and also helped us to save more than £3 million in costs!

We know that working together works and we'll continue to develop these relationships, so we can continue improving the way we serve Kent.

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

	Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Tunbridge Wells	21.7.08	23.7.08	Groombridge Road, Speldhurst	Road closure - water mains works
Dartford	22.7.08	2.9.08	Craylands Lane, Swanscombe	Road closure - water mains works
Sevenoaks	23.7.08	29.8.08	A25 Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works
Maidstone	24.7.08	25.7.08	Ware Street, Maidstone	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works
Thanet	24.7.08	1.9.08	Newington Road, Ramsgate	Road closure - gas mains works
Ashford	28.7.08	4.8.08	Mayshaves Road, Woodchurch	Road closure - water mains works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Bravery above the call of duty is rewarded at ceremonies

Salute to sea rescue hero

By JAMIE McGINNES
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

A POLICEMAN who rescued a suicidal woman from dangerous waters has been honoured at the Police Bravery Awards.

PC Stuart Merrington, of Kent Police, was nominated for the prestigious annual awards ceremony, which was held at the Dorchester in London last week.

The star-studded event followed a reception at 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was at the ceremony along with Cherie Blair, Life On Mars TV copper Philip Glenister and Sky newsreader Dermot Murnaghan.

All 43 forces in England and Wales are invited to select their top candidates, who are nominated by fellow officers for courageously going above and beyond the call of duty.

PC Merrington rescued a suicidal woman from dangerous seas in Folkestone. Shortly after starting duty, PC Merrington received a call from officers who were concerned for the safety of a woman who had fled her family home, threatening to commit suicide.

HEROIC: PC Stuart Merrington saved a woman from drowning

Her mobile telephone was traced to the beach in Folkestone and she was seen walking, fully dressed, into the sea. She ignored pleas from officers to return to the shore and continued to swim away from the beach. The coastguard had been called and the officers were refused permission to enter the choppy waters.

Despite these warnings, PC Merrington took off his jacket and swam out after her. By this time, the woman was about 150 metres from shore, but the determined officer managed to get on her seaward side.

The woman persisted in swimming past PC Merrington, attempting to fight off his efforts to save her. He managed to keep her on the surface and continued talking to her while treading water.

With the woman continuing to struggle, PC Merrington started to tire. Realising this, other officers entered the water with a buoyancy aid and helped him bring her to the shore and safety.

Without the persistence and professionalism of PC Merrington the woman would have drowned, said Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation.

He said: "Stuart's actions on that day are a reminder of the selfless acts of bravery that officers engage in on a daily basis."

PC Merrington was among 64 officers from across the UK who was nominated.

The Prime Minister told them: "You have all shown great bravery and courage in serving our country. I want to say thank you to the families of loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice, and to those who have suffered injuries while serving with the police force."

In the end, the South East award went to Thames Valley policeman Paul Davies, 44, who was set upon by two burglars who then punched, kicked and stabbed him repeatedly with a screwdriver.

He was saved by his body armour and even kept hold of the thugs until help arrived to arrest them.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Courage, pride and tragedy

POLICE officers, staff and members of the public were honoured at an awards ceremony in Northfleet.

The event welcomed more than 250 people through the doors of the new North Kent police station in Thames Way.

During the ceremony, acts of bravery, dedication, commitment and long service were recognised by area commander Chief Superintendent Paul Brandon.

More than 60 police officers and staff and over 20 members of the public and community were among those to receive awards.

They included PC Andrew Payne, PC Aaron Watkin and Rob Hooper for rescuing a suicidal man from above the live railway line in Gravesend; and Daniel Austin, Christopher King, Robert Knox, Sean Morrison and Daniel Smith for chasing a violent offender who had assaulted a member of the public.

PC John Clarke, who was struck on the head by a samurai sword, received the Area Commander's Shield for Outstanding Performer of the Year.

Colin and Sally Knox attended the ceremony to accept the posthumous award given to their son Robert, 18, who was honoured for the bravery he showed alongside colleagues at Marks & Spencer in Bluewater during an incident in 2007. The Harry Potter actor was stabbed to death in Sidcup in May, this year.

On accepting the award, they said: "Rob had told us about the incident that took place at Bluewater on May 24, 2007, which was exactly a year before he died.

"He did not make this a big thing at the time, but with hindsight it was more important than he let on.

"It doesn't surprise us at all, after reading the report which outlined how he assisted the police, that Rob did try to help."

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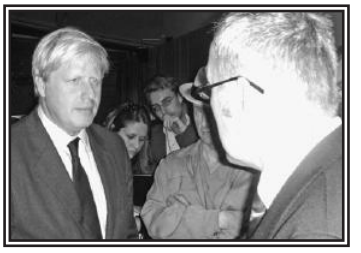
Mayor Boris taking notice of Gulf war vet's fight for justice

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GULF War Syndrome sufferer Noel Baker has taken his campaign to the heart of London through a meeting with the new mayor Boris Johnson.

Mr Baker, from Rainham, fought in the 1990-91 conflict, and believes he became ill due to experimental vaccine injections and exposure to deadly gases when Saddam Hussein's arms depots were blown up

But it has been a battle with the Government to have the condition recognised – so he and other veterans can be compensated.



The 42-year-old is Kent co-ordinator of the National Gulf War Veterans and Families Association.

He and other veterans from many other campaigns were invited by Mr Johnson to attend London's City Hall for a gathering to launch Veterans Day, which will now be held annually at Trafalgar Square to mark the contribution service personnel make to society and pay tribute to their courage and bravery.

Mr Baker said: "One bit of good news that came from the meeting was that all injured veterans and their eligible dependants can now use London's public transport for free, which is excellent news.

"It at least shows that someone is taking notice of the people who were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

"It would now be nice if other authorities in the UK matched this offer."

Mr Baker said Mr Johnson asked him to provide more details about Gulf War Syndrome, which is the name given to illnesses reported by veterans of the conflict.

He said: "He did seem interested in what I had to say. It appeared he didn't have much knowledge about this condition, so I just gave him a few details and will be emailing him with more once he has had a chance to digest it."

Noel Baker was a trooper in the Queen's Royal Lancers in Iraq and left the Army as a corporal. He now suffers from multiple sclerosis, a cyst in his spleen and episodes of skin cancer.

He believes his illnesses are from experimental jabs while in Iraq and breathing gasses after blowing up arms depots.

Mr Johnson said of his free travel for veterans: "War veterans can often have a hard time when they return, sometimes facing issues such as serious injury, mental illness and unemployment.

"Those that have lost spouses or parents have also suffered for the service they have given. Yet in both cases they are not entitled to existing travel concessions.

"I want to change that, and am pleased that, from November, London will be doing its bit in recognising the unflinching contribution that these men and women of the forces have made, by offering free travel throughout the capital for injured veterans."

MEETING: Noel Baker (above) met the Mayor of London Boris Johnson (top)

More arrests in road campaign

POLICE from Kent and Essex have made another 11 arrests as part of a joint roads campaign which was introduced in May

Under Operation Lockdown, four teams used Automated Number Plate Recognition equipment on main routes in and out of towns in east Essex. A total of 31 arrests have now been made under the scheme.

Inspector Paul Moor, of Essex Police, said: "This joint operation was very successful, denying offenders the use of the roads."

Further operations are planned for the remainder of the year in Kent and Essex.

Dad who 'sold out to evil' says payment is punishment for crime

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE father of Kent club hostess Lucie Blackman who was murdered while working in Japan, says he doesn't support defendants making payments to families of victims in exchange for leniency.

Tim Blackman was condemned by his former wife Jane Steare for taking a payment of £453,000 from an associate of wealthy businessman Joji Obara, who was eventually cleared of killing Miss Blackman, from Sevenoaks.

But Mr Blackman said this was not so Obara would be treated more favourably, but as compensation and punishment.

Miss Blackman's body was eventually found in a cave 200 yards from Obara's seaside home after a massive search led by her father in 2000.

It was claimed Obara drugged, raped and killed the 21-year-old after meeting her outside a nightclub.

Now, Obara has reportedly made a payment of almost £500,000 to the Australian family of another girl he was found guilty of murdering.

It is understood the family may have signed documents questioning some of the evidence against the convicted rapist and killer and also said they believe he is capable of being rehabilitated.

The money was paid to Nigel Ridgway, his wife and surviving daughter, after their daughter Carita, a 21-year-old model, died in Tokyo in 1992 at the hands of Obara.

Mr Ridgway flew to Tokyo at Obara's expense to negotiate the payment.

At first, her mother Annette said she was worried the payment may speed up Obara's release, but finally agreed to accept.

Obara's lawyers are due to present Mr Ridgway's statement to the Tokyo High Court at an appeal against nine convictions, which started in March.

At the same time, prosecutors are contesting the acquittal on the Lucie Blackman murder charge.

Her father accepted what is called 'condolence' money in 2006, and signed a document questioning some of the prosecution evidence.

At the time, her mother accused him of accepting "blood money" and claimed the payment had influenced the court in acquitting Obara – something Mr Blackman denies.

Unacceptable

He told KOS Media: "The Japanese legal system is different to ours and can seem unusual. I do accept it might seem unusual that a defendant can hand out money to victims' families like this.

"But it is a form of punishment. It is a form of compensation for families."

"I do think it is unacceptable this money should be used to somehow gain some kind of leniency for the defendant," he said.

"I accepted the money as compensation – it was like a fine, but it came to me instead of the State as it does here."

Mr Blackman has also set up the Lucie Blackman Trust, which campaigns to keep travellers safe while abroad and at home.

Obara was jailed for life last year after being found guilty of raping eight women, as well as "rape resulting in death" in the case of Miss Ridgway. He has always denied all the charges.

He was acquitted of the same charge in the case of Miss Blackman.

Her mother, Mrs Steare, said from her home in Sevenoaks, that she has repeatedly turned down offers of money from Obara, because she feared it would lead to a reduced sentence.

She said: "How can any loving parent be willing to place any price on justice and the lives of their children?

"I sincerely hope the judges in this appeal and any subsequent appeal rightly disregard the actions of Lucie's father and of Carita's parents. They have all sold out to evil."

Previously, she claimed her family was warned by prosecutors not to accept money from anyone linked to Obara because it could reduce any jail sentence.

BLOOD MONEY: Mr Blackman (left) accepted money from the man accused of killing his daughter Lucie (right)

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Driest house in the county

How couple's move to country forged the start of Christian charity which helps drink and drug addicts rebuild their lives

CHRISTIAN AID: Violet and Ray Sinden bought Kenward House (above left) 40 years ago

Kent Highway Services

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **45 & 46**.

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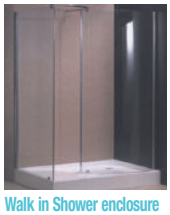

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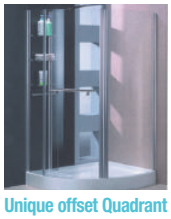

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By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

FORTY years ago, Ray and Violet Sinden sold everything they had and took out a large bank loan to buy a country house.

They moved to Kenward House in Yalding with their family – and five homeless men they had taken in.

Christian charity the Kenward Trust was born. Today, Kenward House is, at any one time, home to around 20 recovering alcoholics and drug addicts and the trust has rehabilitation clinics across Kent and one in Sussex.

It accepts referrals from all over the UK and is mainly funded by fees paid for people referred to it by local authorities such as Kent County Council.

Sean, from Surrey, is currently at Kenward House recovering from the alcoholism he believes would otherwise have killed him.

The 36-year-old, whose surname KOS Media has agreed not to publish, said his drinking reached the point where his family no longer recognised him.

"My three young children didn't know who I was," he said. "I was there in body, but not there as a father."

He added: "I always drank, but I'd managed to hold down a succession of jobs before I had my own business and then slowly, or maybe more rapidly than I actually thought at the time, drink started to get a hold over me.

"Drink started to control my life. It was the only thing in my life."

Sean, who drank about two bottles of vodka a day, finally realised he needed help.

"It was that or lose everything and eventually die," he said.

Overwhelmed

Five months ago he checked into Kenward House – and is now a different person, he said.

His family came to visit him and were, "totally overwhelmed by the change that's happened".

Sean added: "It's given me hope of life beyond alcohol, which I didn't believe there was."

As well as regular group and one-to-one counselling, residents at Kenward House are on a rota to help out with jobs.

Tony Williams, spokesman for the Kenward Trust, told KOS Media that unlike celebrity rehab clinics, people being treated were expected to contribute.

They would not be allowed to stay in bed if they didn't feel like getting up, said Mr Williams.

Chris, 43, also from Surrey, only arrived at Kenward House just over a month ago. As well as taking methadone, he used valium, crack cocaine and drank.

He has already noticed the benefits of treatment.

"I'm constantly amazed," he said. "I keep remembering I'm not chained to that [his drug and drink past] anymore. I thought I'd lost my chance at life."

The former Falmouth College of Art student said he was particularly enjoying creative art classes at Kenward House.

Last month, KOS Media interviewed Cllr Michael Mahy, the Mayor of Swanley, who was able to overcome alcoholism thanks to the Kenward Trust.

Although the Sindens were driven by their Christian beliefs and there are weekly services on Monday mornings at Kenward House, religion is not forced down people's throats, stressed Mr Williams.

The trust has 10 residential rehabilitation projects, two structured day recovery projects, outreach workers, nine alcohol clinics and the Grey Zebra Youth Outreach project for young people.

It charges local authorities £500 a week for each person it treats – as opposed to 10 times that amount in the private sector.

The Kenward Trust had a 40th anniversary service of thanksgiving at Rochester Cathedral last Sunday.

• ***For more information on the work of the trust, visit www.kenwardtrust.org.uk.***

EFFORT: Tony Williams says trust does not offer clients an easy ride on road to recovery

TEAM EFFORT: Staff and clients at Kenward House, which accepts referrals from all over the UK

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TRAGEDY: Three Kent Air Ambulance crew died when their helicopter hit power lines 10 years ago

Special service to honour dead air ambulance crew

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editiorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MEMORIAL service to remember the three air ambulance crew members killed when their helicopter hit power lines and crashed will be held on Friday.

The men lost their lives when the helicopter crashed on July 26, 1998, near Rochester airport.

Paramedics Mark Darby, 37, and Tony Richardson, 47, along with pilot Graham Budden, 40, will be remembered in the service at Rochester Cathedral.

A statement issued on behalf of the families of the dead crew members said: "Our loss was a public one and we were touched by the tremendous outpouring of grief from the public.

"We will never forget our loved ones and this thanksgiving service is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of three brave men, 10 years on."

The noon service will be attended by present and past crew, trustees and staff of the air ambulance and South East Coast Ambulance Service, and representatives from other emergency services.

The families did not wish to be interviewed.

Mr Budden was at the controls when the helicopter flew into power lines near Burham as it was returning to Rochester airport.

Linda Budden brought a civil action after her husband's employers, the Police Aviation Services Ltd, denied liability.

The High Court has ruled the aircraft suffered mechanical failure and that Mr Budden was not to blame.

Air accident investigators said they were unable to establish the cause of the crash because virtually nothing was left of the helicopter.

But some witnesses, who regularly saw the aircraft approach the airport, reported the sound of the helicopter on the day of the crash was unusual.

A court ruled the most likely cause of the crash was a mechanical malfunction.

At the time, Mrs Budden, from Lingfield, said: "We are just ecstatic it is all over and Graham's name has been cleared.

"We were sure there was some sort of mechanical failure, but of course there was no evidence because it was all burnt."

Mrs Budden, who has two children, said her husband was very safety conscious and had radioed in to say he was going to land when the crash happened.

She said: "We knew there was something wrong and we wanted to put the record straight. I wanted to do it for the children really."

It was the only fatal accident to happen in the UK involving an air ambulance.

The air ambulance service covering Kent, Surrey and Sussex costs around £3 million a year to stay airborne, all of which is paid for by donations.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

A lack of evidence

REMARKS made during a live TV interview by a black police officer from Kent have caused uproar.

When asked if he thought racism was "widespread" in the force, Det Sgt Wendell Henry, a member of the National Black Police Association (NBPA), said he did.

He said there were racists in the larger Kent community and it was therefore inevitable that some of them had become police officers.

Unsurprisingly, DS Henry's comments have been rejected by Kent Police, while the county branch of the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, said there was "absolutely no evidence" to support his claims.

No-one would deny there are racists in the police. To do so would be foolish when racism remains a fact of life in modern Britain – as it does in other countries.

However, the real bone of contention is with DS Henry's use of the word "widespread". It indicates that there is a serious problem facing many officers in the Kent constabulary.

As it stands, the argument seems stacked in Kent Police's favour. As well as having a black chief constable, Kent was the only force to be given a diversity award by the NBPA in 2006.

Meanwhile, figures given to Kent on Sunday show just 18 allegations of racism were made against Kent officers in the last two years. That is impressive, considering the force has more than 4,000 officers and PCSOs, as well as more than 2,600 support staff.

If DS Henry has evidence of "widespread" racism, he should show it to the force so it can be investigated – and stamped out.

OPINION: Birth of a controversy

Employers have always shied away from giving jobs to women, says self-confessed 'grumpy old man' Peter Stokes

IS IT reasonable to expect the owner of a small business to be enthusiastic about employing women who are likely to take months of paid leave and expect their position to be immediately available when they finally return?

Reasonable or not, I'm sure many readers would be upset, outraged even, at the spectre of business people attempting to avoid employing women.

Interestingly, and much to their surprise, they'll undergo a startling change if they ever decide to start their own business. I've seen it happen. As a venture capitalist who has helped 70 people start their own companies, I've witnessed that change first-hand.

Vehemently deny it though they might, I can promise you most people who support maternity leave legislation will immediately cease to do so after having put their house, savings, health and the well-being of their family on the line to make a 24/7 commitment to starting and running their own small business.

Like it or not, one must accept that most people who run their own small business hold, justifiably, exceedingly strong views about who they're prepared to employ. Which means, given that 95 per cent of employees in the UK work in businesses employing fewer than 100 staff, and approximately four million people work in companies employing fewer than nine, one might safely assume the odds are heavily stacked against women in the job-seeking stakes. And the Government knows it. Problem is, although genuinely desirous of encouraging the business community to continue to stoke the economic fires of the nation, politicians are actually more concerned about gaining (or not losing) votes/jobs for themselves. Hence the proposed increase in maternity leave. They believe it will enable them to harvest extra votes from women and the more liberal-minded. Shame that so many women and well-meaning liberal voters aren't aware, as the Government is, of the extent to which maternity legislation is damaging our business community and closing the door on jobs and job opportunities for women. Always has done. Always will do. After having been subjected to years of continuous propaganda by professional lobbyists representing the interests of women and their many and varied rights, most of us have come to blindly accept that people in business are wicked, antisocial bloodsuckers and that women have some God-given right to demand preferential treatment.

Truth is, nobody in their right mind who is considering selecting one of a number of equally qualified applicants is going to choose the one most likely to absent themselves for months at a time and then expect to return and continue where they left off.

The problem for people running a small business isn't so much the amount of time a woman is on maternity leave, it's having to guarantee they can return. Apart from the additional worry and expense of finding a replacement, it can take months to advertise, hold interviews and finally recruit somebody. It can take a further couple of months for them to settle in. And what is the owner supposed to do about the new employee when the woman who previously occupied the position decides to return?

'Those who back maternity leave will cease to do so after having put their house, savings and family on the line'

That's why the Grumpies will, immediately after having seized power, axe maternity leave legislation. Women will then have the right to compete for jobs on an almost level playing field.

I say 'almost level' because some men, and some women for that matter, just aren't prepared to employ women. Contrary to the propaganda, everybody is different. Nobody is equal. The dynamics of building an all-male team differ from that of building an all-women or a mixed-gender team. Large companies employ managers who spend years learning how to deal with such things. Unfortunately, most small companies are run by people who don't possess such skills. Introducing a woman into a small team run by somebody lacking the right interpersonal skills is like putting a rotten apple into a barrel.

• *Peter Stokes leads the Grumpy Old Men Political Party.*

Badgers and bananas

What is going on with these people who hold high positions that they cannot see the wood for the trees?

We have Environment Secretary Hilary Benn saying: "I don't think a cull would work." We have Peter Kendal, president of the NFU, proclaiming: "We must have cull to fight the spread of bovine TB." Then we have Peter Smith, of the Wildwood Trust, saying: "Badgers are not causing the spread of bovine TB." Are they all bananas?

Common countryside sense means if you have a field of cattle that get bovine TB from badgers living in the same field, proven by tests, then you cull that family of badgers. If you have a family of rabbits eating all your crops in a field, you cull those rabbits.

You do not cull badgers in a field in another part of the county if they do not have TB and no cattle have become infected, do you? So I would have thought it would have been quite simple to allow farmers who have cattle infected with TB to cull badgers, but not the farmers whose herds are not infected. This is not rocket science and all parties should then be happy. You cannot have a blanket cull 'just in case'.

That would like saying: "We had better kill the whole human race because we have a case of smallpox in Dartford and it might spread to everyone else."

Will they ever remove their heads from where the sun doesn't shine?

John Atkins
Greatstone

Green control freaks

I'm sorry, but I have to laugh at the green nitpickers who think controlling people's lives on our tiny island will save the world (Dr Hazel Dawe, letters, last week).

We occupy only 0.16 per cent of the world's land mass and while we are giving criminal records to pensioners for putting waste in the wrong recycling bins, punishing everybody with supposed green taxes, and browbeating the population for any minor anti-green indiscretion, China alone brings another coal-fired power station on-stream every few days to manufacture the goods we are buying in the shops. All the hypocrites are doing is punishing our own people while funding other countries to pollute for us on a massive scale. And this doesn't include the rest of the developing world.

When I see the alleged green taxes spent on repairing the ravages of the pollution of our planet, then I'll start to believe the cause is genuine. Until then, it will be obvious these taxes are just to fund our Government's profligacy, filling the big hole in their budget, and the green rules and regulations are just in place because they are, as we have found, control freaks.

Phil Granger
West Malling

So proud of Dockyard treatment of veterans

May I, through the good offices of your excellent newspaper, record my admiration and thanks to the organisers at Chatham Historic Dockyard for the first-class arrangements, entertainment and treatment of the many veterans who attended Veterans' Day on Saturday, July 5.

I would also include the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett, who must have walked miles meeting and talking with the veterans.

Our Government has expressed concern regarding the poor behaviour of some of our young people. May I suggest that they look very closely at the Sea Cadets who were on parade. The pride in themselves and their units shone like a beacon.

Perhaps the Government should be looking more closely at expanding these types of organisations instead of making it more difficult with ever more bureaucracy, which only serves to make the politicians themselves feel important.

Ron Lamb, president
Royal British Legion
Gillingham (Kent) branch

A vote for eccentricity

It would be easy to poke fun at some of the minor candidates in the Haltemprice and Howden by-election.

But I respect, and am grateful to, the likes of David Bishop of the Elvis Party (44 votes) Miss Great Britain (521 votes) and even Mad Cow Girl, the Monster Raving Loony Party candiate, who managed to persuade 411 people to vote for her. In no other country but England would such eccentricity flourish, be tolerated or even understood. Just one reason why, whatever it might say on your passport, England will never, ever consider itself part of Europe. So in the dark, dismal days of forced European integration which lie ahead, true Englishmen will not lose heart.

The humourless unelected commissars of Brussels and all their pro-European hangers-on and political toadies can shuffle their bits of paper and strut up and down to their silly anthems until they are blue in the face, but they will never succeed in absorbing England into their European bureaucracy. Never in a million years.

Audrey Marjerson and Hugh Rogers
By email

Cherry day confusion

Although I am delighted that good British food such as the humble cherry is being celebrated (KoS, last week), can anybody enlighten me as to why Cherry Day has been moved from July 6 to July 19? Did lack of research mean FoodLoversBritain.com didn't discover that we have already had a Cherry Day? Or was it not good enough?

While I have to admit it has not always been renowned enough to deserve a bank holiday. it was widely enough known for me to have been grateful to my father for not allowing my mother to christen me Cherry, as I was born on this day. Nothing against the name, I hasten to add, but I think I might have gone through a lot of teasing at school.

So although July 6 fell on a Sunday this year and some shops may not have been open, how about next year putting it back to its rightful day, which is the height of the season for this fabulous fruit. Keep up the good work with your fabulous newspaper.

Chris Manson
Walmer

Cycling backwards

We returned late last Sunday after completing the next stage of our 1,054-km cycle ride to the Brandenburg Gate in the centre of Berlin (would anybody seriously consider cycling directly into London's Piccadilly Circus?). A most interesting an enjoyable trip.

One thing is for sure, it demonstrated how

Letters continued on p30

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BADDELEY
Simon and Keeley of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Phoebe Rose, on 5th July 2008. A new sister for Lewis.

BARTLETT
Peony bron on 11th July 2008, weighing 6lbs 11oz. Daughter to Robert and Alexandra Bartlett of Ashford. Sister to Isla and Levin.

BOALER
Rob and Jean from Herne Bay are celebrating the birth of their beautiful daughter born on 20th June 2008 at QEQM Mary-Louise, a little sister for Dulcie-Jean.

COTTON
Ayla Louise Cotton born on 1st July 2008, weighing 7lb 2oz. Daughter to Louise Cotton and Gary Sumpter in Maidstone.

DAVISON
Evie Mai Davison born on 29th June 2008 weighing 7lbs 5oz. Daughter to Ian and Katherine Davison of Maidstone.

DHARMASENA
Mia born on 6th June 2008, weighing 2lbs and 2ozs. Daughter to Dharson Dharmasena and Donna Goldsmith. Doing really well - now weighing over 3lbs.

FITNESS
Ellie-May born on 5th July 2008 weighing 7lbs 4ozs. Daughter to Rochelle and Jim and little sister to Bradley, Tristan, Ruth and Karen.

FRANKS
Kevin and Solitaire are the proud parents of their new baby son, Stuart-James Kyro Franks, born on 5th July 2008 weighing 6lb 10oz.

FULLMAN
Caroline Fullman and Simon Crossley are pleased to announce the birth of Erin Hazel on Thursday 3rd July 2008 at Canterbury Birthing Centre.

GASIAMIS
Marinos and Kerry are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Alexa Ageliki on 4th July 2008 weighing 7lb 4oz.

HALLIDAY
Paul and Zara are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Lily Karen born on 30th June 2008 at the William Harvey Hospital.

HAWKINS
Sandra and Wayne of Hythe celebrate the birth of their daughter Phoebe Louise Hawkins on 18th June 2008. Our little angel X X.

HOUGHTON-AYLING
Callum Peter born on 5th July 2008 in Maidstone, weighing 7lb 2oz. Son to Richard and Alison. Brother to Alana.

JACKSON
Isaac born four weeks early on 10th July 2008 in Darent Valley Hospital weighing 6lb 1oz. Son to Emily and Lee and baby brother to Dylan xx.

KING
Gary and Jodie of Canterbury are proud to announce the birth of their son, Max Peter King, on 2nd July 2008 weighing 7lb 11oz.

LAWSON
Simon and Kate of Dunks Green are delighted to announce the birth of their son Edward David Lawson born 4th July 2008 weighing 6lb 5oz.

LYNE
Matthew and Anita of Whitstable proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Bethany Anna Lyne, on 28th June 2008.

MITCHELL
Ryan and Louise of Birchington celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Libby Cydney on 11th July 2008.You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

MOORE
Kate and David Moore of East Malling celebrate the birth of their son Ewan Michael Moore born on 27th June 2008.

NELSON
Theo and Sam are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Esme Lily on 5th June 2008.

O'SHEA
John and Liz are delighted to announce the birth of their son Elliot Laurence on 6th June 2008, weighing 7lb 11oz. A baby brother for Jessica.

POWELL
Lee and Leigha Powell and Sarah Banks celebrate the birth of Melissa Chloe Powell on 5th July 2008 weighing 8lbs 5ozs.

RUSSELL
Rohan and Sarah celebrate the birth of their daughter Ruby on 14th July 2008 weighing 8lbs 15ozs sister for Charlotte and Violet.

STONEMAN
Rhys John Stoneman born on 23rd June 2008 at 2:02am weighing 8lbs 12ozs. Happy parent are Carissa and Darren Stoneman.

WESTON
Gareth and Jo are delighted to announce the birth of their son Oliver William on 2nd July 2008 weighing 8lb 3oz. He was well worth the wait!

DEATHS

BENSON
Malcolm passed away on 10th July 2008 at Darent Valley Hospital. Goodbye and God Bless x.

GIBSON
Tom Gibson passed away on 14th July 2008. Enquiries to Palmers Funerals, Ramsgate 01843 592720.

JONES
Sue Jones passed away on 8th July 2008 after a brave fight against cancer. DAJ, family and friends will all miss your wonderful happy and smiling face. You never gave up hope. Funeral 22nd July at 11.15am St Martins Church. No black tie please. Flowers family only. donations to Kent Cancer Trust c/o Chittendens Folkestone.

SAUNDERS
Ellen Beatrice Saunders of Maidstone passed away peacefully after a short illness bravely borne on 14th July 2008, aged 82.

SKINNER
Susan Skinner nee Baker aged 54 years of Nettlestead passed away in her sleep on 12th July 2008. Funeral to take place at Nettlestead Church at midday followed by Vinters Park Crematorium on 22nd July 2008. Enquiries to Sears Funeral Directors Barming. Any donations to the Macmillan Nurses.

WATTS
Kathleen Margaret Watts, widow of Stanley George Watts, passed away peacefully at Maidstone Hospital on 8th July.

Letters continued from p29

terribly slow and backward-looking Kent is when it comes to cycling. There is a large advertisement in Dover which reads "Welcome to Kent, why not stay longer?"

If only it had a good cycling network, then (judging from our experience) an awful lot more people would.

Ted and Mechtild Prangnell
Ashford

Meghan, have a drink

America claims to be the Land of the Free, words that are often repeated along with "democracy".

These and similar sentiments are trotted out not only in the United States but throughout the European Union.

But reading last week's Young American's view, by Meghan McKeig, these words are lost on her, as they are on most politicians. In fact, the USA is one of the most legislated countries in the world and, like other so-called western democracies, we are only free to do as we are told.

It is very sad that young people such as Meghan wish to enforce their views – in her case over drinking alcohol – by legislation and draconian punishment on those with a different opinion and then tell us we live in a democracy.

Terry Hudson
Herne Bay

Power station eyesore

I note that South Thanet MP Dr Stephen Ladyman states that his constituency extends to Sandwich and the surrounding villages.

But what has he done in his time as an MP about the eyesore of a derelict power station at Richborough that spoils one of the best views in Thanet? If the company that owns the land does not deal with it, it should be cleared and charged to them. That – Thanet council, Kent County Council and our MPs – would be regeneration.

Adrian Ottley
Birchington

Parents want the best

Labour just cannot get a solitary thing right. On the one hand we have Cllr Green castigating Cllr Wells for "playing politics" with children's education (ever thought of looking in the mirror, councillor?) and on the other we have Education Secretary Ed Balls saying there are more than 2,000 primary schools (mostly in Labour councils) that are failing children.

Has it ever occurred to Cllr Green to ask parents why they want a grammar education for their child? The answer is simple: they want the best for their sons and daughters.

Doug Cheverst
Bexleyheath

Invitation to the tower

I must respond to last week's letter from John Page, headlined An Unwelcoming Isle.

I cannot speak for the Visitor Information Centre or the Shell Grotto in Margate, except that I know the people who run them and they do so to the very best of their abilities, given their limited resources.

As for Crampton Tower Museum in Broadstairs, I am a little confused. The writer claims to have gone online and visited the museum personally, but was unable to find any information.

We have a very good website that contains all our details, including opening times and admission charges along with forthcoming events. Also the window in the tower, which is highly visible from the public access to the site, has on display the museum's opening times and other matters regarding its operation. We also distribute flyers around most of the tourism sites in Thanet, have permanent signs and advertise in local tourism magazines, including KOS Media's Isle magazine.

Crampton Tower is a volunteer-driven charitable trust and we have the resources to open between 2pm and 5pm daily, from March 15 to September 30. Admission is £2.50 for adults, £1.20 for children (5-16 years) and £6.50 for families (two adults and two children.)

I am sure Mr Page's grandchildren were most disappointed that they were unable to visit Crampton Tower and enjoy its family-oriented interactive exhibits. If he would like to contact me at the museum, I would be pleased to show him and his family around for free.

Peter Shaw, chairman
Crampton Tower Museum

Quentin's out of gas

We can expect motoring journalist Quentin Willson to back the road lobby, but I was surprised to read that he has absolutely no insight into the bigger picture (KoS, last week).

Fuel prices have risen sharply due to global demand for oil outstripping supply for the first time. Despite interesting claims by oil companies and oil-producing countries, the supply of oil is essentially fixed. For basic geological reasons, oil cannot be extracted any more quickly. Supply is at its maximum. Demand, however, continues to grow globally.

Getting rid of fuel tax would ease the burden for us in the short term, but it will increase consumption and demand further, simply pushing prices higher. In no time at all we will be back where we started, but this time with no tax revenue to make the drastic structural changes to address our transportation and fuel crises.

There should be fairer access to fuel and there need to be radical changes to the way we live our lives – perhaps a start is an assumption that local is good when it comes to schools, work and shops – but radical change will need money. Sadly, none of the three main parties has real plans that would address the scale of the challenge of peak oil.

The country needs to be investing heavily in reducing our dependency on oil and this can't be done alongside cutting fuel tax. Investing in reducing our fossil fuel dependency will also ensure that our economy does not get too battered. Reducing fuel taxes is a sure-fire way to economic disaster.

Stuart Jeffery, Green parliamentary candidate, Maidstone and the Weald

Arthur's still the king

David Line mentioned that Kent opening batsman Arthur Fagg was the first person to score two double centuries in one match.

Not only that, he remains to this day the only cricketer to have achieved the feat.

BJ Gilham
Broadstairs

Jan, you were superb

We should all thank Jan Stephens, Medway police's commander, on her retirement. She joined Kent Police in 1976, when women PCs were paid 7/8ths of what their male counterparts got.

At the other end of her career, she received very little reward for staying on past retirement age, but did this in order to serve Medway.

Eight years ago, when I suggested to our then area commander that policemen should have their own beat, I was told I had been watching too much Dixon of Dock Green.

Working with Jan, we have now given 100 neighbourhood constables and support officers their own beat and we are bringing in further neigbourhood task teams in support.

I wish Jan a very happy and well-deserved retirement and thank her for the service that she has given all of us in Medway.

Mark Reckless
Kent Police Authority
Rochester

Perfect Line and length

It was a pleasure to see the letter last week from David Line about the double century scored by Arthur Fagg, who played first-class cricket for Kent from 1932 (aged just 17) until 1957, in a remarkable career spanning 25 years.

In my first job in 1954, I shared an office with a friend who was an avid Middlesex supporter. He regularly pulled my leg about the "aged" Kent players Arthur Fagg and his regular opening partner Arthur Phebey, often making comments about their failing eyesight. Although at that time they never seemed to amass very high scores and Kent supporters often harked backed to the winning year of 1911, the combination of Fagg and Phebey was then regarded by many as the epitome of English county cricket sportsmanship at its best. Thanks for the memory.

Patrick Collins
Welling

It's a small world

After reading about Ramsgate Model Village in your paper, I thought you would like to know that when I was on holiday in Great Yarmouth I visited its model village.

One of the groundsmen told me that several new exhibits had come from Ramsgate Model Village. So you see, our village still lives on.

E Miller
Ramsgate

Anglicans in turmoil

Who is wearing the trousers? Is the Church of England trouserless?

The actions of those who left no room for manoeuvre for those not accepting women bishops may indeed come as a rude awaking to Bishops Venner and Castle (Bishop's distress over conflict within church, last week).

When the first women were ordained at Rochester Cathedral more than 10 years ago, the cry from a spokeswoman was: "This is a victory for women."

Outside the General Synod at the time of this last debate there was a fairly militant lobby group of women priests. Unlike the Suffragette movement, with its men supporters, they had few male priests with them. Were they prepared to chain

themselves to the railings? Many, one suspects, have not made up their mind about women priests and women bishops, but the arguments for both seem to point to how far the Church of England has departed from the teachings of its founder, Jesus Christ.

There are other things to fight for apart from "victory for women".

The inclusion of women "who care" in fairly high positions of leadership in the Church doesn't appear to have produced a more caring and sensitive response.

Some argued: "Why should the top jobs be denied to women? Will this not cause a decline in women ordinands?"

Perhaps we need to return to a Church where vocation and sacrificial service mean something.

Finally, the decision not to allow room for those who differ from their views seems almost typical of a strident feminism long since rejected by the politically correct.

There has been a growth in the Catholic Church in the UK and also of the pentecostal churches and house churches.

The latter have many women ministers and all have many active men and young people in their congregations.

The Church of England is, in many places, in terminal decline. Despite the majority of ordinands now being women, it has not attracted many men to its congregation. Perhaps it has forgotten its mission?

Stephan Jenkins
Rochester

Life's rich tapestry

I was interested to learn from Mick Watkins' Bayeux Tapestry article (KoS, June 29) that a conference is to be held this month at the British Museum.

I too am of a mind that the tapestry, being an account of the Norman invasion of England in October, 1066, was stitched at a school of embroidery in Canterbury, having been commissioned by Bishop Odo, brother to William the Conqueror who, after the conquest, was made Earl of Kent.

When the bishop returned to France after some 15 years, the wealth he had acquired was used to build the cathedral at Bayeux. In France, the embroidery is known as Queen Matilda's Tapestry. She was the wife of William and Queen of England.

Napoleon had the tapestry moved to Paris in 1803, to where it was again transferred by the Germans when the Allies landed in Normandy on D-Day.

Bayeux, the first town in Western Europe to be liberated from the Nazis, on June 8, 1944, has a memorial marking how the conquered became the liberators. The tapestry was exhibited at the Louvre in Paris in November of that year.

I would suggest that CM Sharpe (letters, July 6) refers to the book The Bayeux Tapestry, by Eric Maclagan CBE, a detailed and illustrated account first published in 1943.

The claim that the work was executed by English women was examined in a BBC programme 50 years later in 1993.

Shelia Brodrick Skinner
Broadstairs

Plumbing the depths

I was interested to read the letter from Jonathan Shaw MP, who says the fishing industry is to be given an additional £30 million of taxpayers' money to become more competitive and sustainable.

I would like to know how he proposes this when the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has already declared that most of the world's oceans are facing a catastrophic decline and almost all the world's fish stocks are in serious trouble due to over-fishing.

Shoals of cod off Canada have disappeared and those off Britain and Iceland are collapsing. Haddock, whiting and saithe are in steep decline and stocks of herring and mackerel have collapsed.

Skate, monkfish, anchovy, redfish and swordfish are already extinct in some seas and are struggling to survive in others.

Deepwater fish have been almost entirely obliterated in the few short years since their discovery.

Sea birds, dolphins, seals, sea otters and other creatures are being destroyed by heavy fishing gear in the ocean equivalent of strip mining.

Populations of plankton, the basis of all sea life and much of our oxygen, are becoming entirely unpredictable.

Almost all fish, especially oily fish, that we are told to eat for our health, are laced with deadly chemicals, mercury, PCB and dioxins at almost 10 times the maximum levels, some fish are such a risk that the Food Standards Agency, have advised pregnant and breast feeding mothers and children under 16 to limit the amount they eat.

The truth is that fishing is an environmental disaster that is rapidly leading the planet into total collapse, if politicians like Mr Shaw are still willing to prop up an industry that is destroying the planet and our health, then we must act now and stop eating fish.

There is now a huge volume of science to show that becoming vegetarian or vegan and basing your diet around plant foods can help prevent heart disease, strokes, high blood pressure, cancer, obesity and diabetes.

Plant oils provide an excellent source of omega-3 and are much more effective at protecting your health than fish oils.

For more information, contact the Vegetarian and Vegan Foundation, 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, email: info@vegetarian.org.uk. Or visit the website www.vegetarian.org.uk.

G Collins
Canterbury

It's natural selection

Sid Hollands (letters, July 6) believes some children are disadvantaged by our selective education system.

I believe if all the grammar schools were closed and all the pupils went to comprehensives, nothing would change.

The grammar teachers would move to the comprehensives and would still teach the more able children.

There has always been streaming in every secondary school.

Each child is assessed on his or her ability and aptitude.

The smartest pupils are taught by the smartest teachers, average pupils are taught by average teachers, the less able are taught by remedial teachers or teaching assistants, while the thugs and timewasters are minded by zoo-keepers.

I understand pupils now use calculators in maths exams and still fail, and can get marks in an English exam for writing swear words on the paper, with extra praise for correct spelling.

I am not surprised that some children are leaving school innumerate, semi-literate and unable to get a job.

Many are unable to fill in a job application form, but I don't think we can blame the grammar schools for that.

Derek McMahon
Birchington

Charity begins at home

I always thought the responsibility of a government was to look after it own population before others?

By that I mean, not giving away billions of our money in aid to other countries whilst we struggle to survive with the high costs of living, especially with petrol now so expensive.

Our government feeds the world but not its own.

Some £2.70 out of every £1,000 of the UK's wealth is given in aid to other countries. In total this amounts to just over £3 billion a year.

It also spends over £25 billion on arms and more on wars in far-away countries which none of us agree with.

Surely these amounts could be cut dramatically to help us?

It will be interesting to see who agrees with me. But, even if the majority agreed it would make no difference because that tiny minority rules and they don't seem to give a damn about the rest of us... nor do they ever listen.

John R O'Neon
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Water course to put plug in skills shortage

By JAMIE McGINNES
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW engineering degree will help manage dwindling water supplies as demand increases in the Thames Gateway, according to a university.

The school of engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway has announced the first intake of the BEng Hons public health engineering technology degree.

Students will start the new programme, available part-time and full-time, this September. The new course will prepare graduates to develop communities that use less water, conserve and recycle the water they've got, and ensure rain water drains slowly back into the earth, rather than flood or pour into drainage systems.

Fresh water levels are threatened as land is concreted over, standards of living rise and pollution gets into the water supplies. Climate change is compounding the problems.

The immediate local challenge is to ensure new developments along the Thames Gateway, house building in the South East, and the forthcoming London Olympics are built on sustainable principles.

Students will be prepared to work in the international market where water management is also critical, particularly in developing countries where safe water, sanitation and waste management are crucial to healthy communities.

Dr Stuart Ashenden, of the school of engineering, said: "There is a huge skills shortage in public health engineering.

"This degree, unique in the UK, has been developed with significant support from the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering, the Society of Public Health Engineers, and industry."

Martin Shouler, associate director at construction company Arup, one of the partners helping develop the degree, said: "This new degree will provide the industry with high-calibre graduates equipped to meet the challenges of engineering in a changing world."

Open days for public health engineering will be held at the University of Greenwich at Medway on Thursday, August 21 from 2-8pm and Wednesday, September 3, from 3-7pm.

For more information contact Dr Stuart Ashenden at the school of engineering at courseinfo@gre.ac.uk or phone 01634 883495.

A 'milestone' graduation of future leaders in pharmacy

UNIVERSITY students made history last week at Medway School of Pharmacy's graduation ceremony.

The event, held at the Universities at Medway campus in Chatham Maritime on Friday, July 11, saw the graduation of the school's first group of students studying for the Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree.

A joint project between the universities of Greenwich and Kent, Medway School of Pharmacy opened in 2004.

Today it has more than 550 undergraduate and 100 postgraduate students and has a portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

It is recognised as an established School of Pharmacy by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, having achieved its final accreditation in June this year.

Professor Iain Cumming, head of Medway School of Pharmacy, declared the ceremony a "major milestone" for the students, the universities and the region.

"Every student graduating here today will tell you that they have been taught, academically challenged and assessed at the highest level," he said.

"A degree in pharmacy is quite rightly regarded as a degree with a great deal of academic kudos and is highly valued in the health sector, industry and the community in general."

He added: "I fully recognise we have some future leaders in the field of pharmacy with us today and some are already graduating as independent prescribers."

The vice-chancellors of the universities of Greenwich and Kent, Baroness Blackstone and Professor Julia Goodfellow, respectively, officiated at the ceremony.

Foundation degree and postgraduate students at Medway School of Pharmacy also received their awards and two doctoral awards were made.

Eileen Fofung was presented with the Best Student Award.

Government's backing needed to help pay for apprenticeships

TRAINING provider JTL has welcomed the Government's plans for an Apprenticeship Task Force, but urges said more support will be needed to get employers onboard.

Skills minister David Lammy launched the task force in the capital to expand the numbers of apprenticeship places offered by employers.

However, some employers – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises – are hoping the Government will pledge their commitment to a wage subsidy scheme, easing the salary burden of new recruits.

Caroline Turner, of JTL, said: "Though the cost of training an apprentice is free, with full funding by the Learning and Skills Council, employers are still responsible for their apprentices' salaries and other associated costs.

"Easing the burden of these costs with the release of a wage subsidy programme will go some way to encouraging more employers to recruit apprentices, in particular in an area such as London where the demand for skilled labour is only likely to increase with the ongoing development on projects such as the Olympics and the White City Retail Park."

Under-represented

She added: "In terms of the need for more apprenticeship places for ethnic minority groups, we couldn't agree more and are rolling out our own recruitment programmes that focus on the needs of both the employers and under-represented groups within the building services engineering sector."

The JTL apprenticeship schemes are open to young people between the ages of 16-24. The provider said they are an ideal entry route into the building services engineering sector.

The Advanced Apprenticeship allows young people to: develop practical on-the-job experience, earn as they learn and achieve a National Vocational Qualification at Level 3, which is highly regarded by industry and Government alike, said JTL.

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Closing Date: 25th July 2008

Interview Date: To be arranged

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Successful applicants will be required to undergo a CRB check

Young Enterprise South East

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people. The organisation provides services from over twenty service bases across Kent, Surrey and the London boroughs, employs approximately 300 paid and unpaid staff and has an annual income exceeding £10.5 million.

K·C·A Services in the Community

REF: 498 - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – WEST KENT & MEDWAY

Salary: £16,217 - £18,430 pro rata (SCP 17 - 21)
22.5 hours per week (pay award pending)

As a key member of the Administration Team you will be required to provide efficient and high quality administrative support to the staff team of West Kent and Medway Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, based in Gillingham. The post requires you to be an excellent organiser, to be able to manage your time well and respond quickly to requests.

You should have sound typing skills and confidence in using computer applications - particularly Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. The ability to input data accurately is essential. You will also be confident in communicating with a wide cross-section of staff, young people who use the service and external agencies. You need to be able to work within a busy environment, have the ability to prioritise, and work to tight deadlines. Additional duties include taking referrals, responding to telephone calls and minute taking.

For an application form please contact KCA(UK), Dan House,
44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT,
Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351,
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk
Closing date: 15th August 2008 at 5.00 pm
Interview date: 29th August 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

nacro
changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14 -19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

£21,984 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key stage 4 Engagement Programme (50/50) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Maternity Cover)

£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16 – 18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Army Preparation Programme)

£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16 – 18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

TRAINER (Schools Programmes)

£17,658 to £19,658 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners.

You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme and have an interest in teaching a variety of subjects to young people. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

SWITCH ON PROJECT MANAGER

£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a project for 14-16 year olds across Kent and Medway and Sussex. The project (called Switch On) aims to assist young people's transition into employment and training. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-16 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post will be based in either Kent and Medway or the Brighton area, is dependent on ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.

European Union European Social Fund — >lsc Leading learning and skills

TIE PROJECT MANAGER

£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a personal development and employability project (called TIE) across Kent and Medway and Surrey to 14-19 years olds. The post will be based in Kent and Medway, but will require the post-holder to travel to Surrey on a regular basis. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-19 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post is dependent of ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.

European Union European Social Fund — >lsc Leading learning and skills

Please contact Hayley Arms on 01634 818305 or hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.
Nacro is a registered Charity No: 226171

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REPORTERS

Yourlocal series

Based at our Ashford office, KOS Media is looking to recruit at least one new member of the reporting team.

We produce nine weekly newspapers along with a dedicated news and sport website for each of the areas. All of our reporters also have the opportunity to make video for Yourkenttv so they are able to tell their stories through a variety of media.

You need to hold a full driving licence and have your own car. We would like to hear from reporters and people who believe they have what it takes who will have the chance to study for their NCTJ NCE qualification. We offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience.

Write or email enclosing 200 words on why you want to work for KOS and a brief CV to:
Gary Wright, Group Midweek Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
or email gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk

Closing date: 2nd August 2008

Press Awards 2004 — *UK regional newspaper of the year*

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KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

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Laboratory Technician

(18.5 hours per week)

Salary: £17,861- £22,907 Pro Rata Ref: LW08

MIDKent COLLEGE — an associate college of the UNIVERSITY OF KENT

We are seeking to appoint a Technician to support the delivery of teaching and training at the new Kent Science Resource Centre, located at the Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne. Ideally, the candidate will have experience working in a laboratory and have a NHC or Degree in a relevant science subject. With good interpersonal skills you will be able to work as part of a team supporting teaching and training activities for Industry, Schools and Colleges. For an informal discussion and further details please contact Julie Coleman on 01795 599588.

The closing date Wednesday 30 July 2008.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 13 August 2008.

Mid-Kent College is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | Investor in People

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

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northfleet technology college

Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
Kent DA11 8BG
Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £14,751 during training?

Northfleet Technology College, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2008 in:

• Music • Mathematics

Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.ntc.kent.sch.uk or from Gill Taylor, e-mail: taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday the 28th of July

Ifield School

Ifield Special School, Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT
Telephone: 01474 365485

BUS DRIVER

20 hours per week term-time only
New Kent Scheme Grade 3 – Points 7 to 11
(£13,959 to £15,826 per annum pro-rata)

We have a vacancy for a part-time Driver. The successful candidate will be responsible for transporting pupils to and from the school at the beginning and end of the day and for overseeing the school vehicles. There will also be opportunities to assist with maintenance and caretaking duties.

The successful candidate will need to be flexible and self-motivated, have good communication skills and a valid mini-bus licence

For a job description and application form please contact the headteacher, Mrs Pam Jones.

Website: www.ifieldschool.com
E-mail: ifieldschool@aol.com
Closing date: 28 July 2008

Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.

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west kent college

We are one of the most successful colleges in the south east region providing further and higher education. We are committed to improving the diversity of our staff by offering a wide range of opportunities including apprenticeships, flexible working and full and part-time positions. Why not look at what we can offer you.

Personal Tutor

£19,953 - £23,588 pa

Joining our Tutorial Development team in this newly created post, you will ensure that students who require additional help are fully supported throughout their time at the College. You will achieve this by planning and delivering a full programme of tutorials focusing on functional skills, Every Child Matters themes, innovation and personal effectiveness.

It represents an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand experience of tutoring while pursuing a professional teaching qualification. To be considered, you must have a track record of working with young learners aged 14-19, ideally in a Further Education environment. A fluent communicator, you should also be keen to learn and develop your skills.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working benefits; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: 12 noon, 31 July 2008.

Action for Business College | **Brook Street • Tonbridge • Kent TN9 2PW** | Investor in People

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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1000+ pupils with 300 in the Sixth Form (including 40 girls)

TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY

Required for September 2008 a part time teacher of Psychology.

The subject is a very popular A level choice and the vacancy arises out of a need to expand the department.

The successful applicant will have a good knowledge of psychology and the ability to communicate this to high achieving students.

The department is successful and has attained improved grades this year. An innovative, enthusiastic, self-motivated person would be a welcome addition to the department.

For further details and an application form please contact the Headteacher's PA, Ms Jacqueline Harrison, **as soon as possible.**

Closing date for applications Wednesday, 13th August 2008.

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

An internal reorganisation means that we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to complement our existing team in providing planned and responsive ICT support

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Junior Technical Support Officer

Salary up to £16,416 pa

You will help provide first line support for all the council's ICT desktop equipment.
Essential skills needed include:

- Strong customer facing and customer care skills including the ability to communicate efficiently by email, telephone and face to face
- Sound knowledge of PC hardware, Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office applications
- A knowledge of ITIL guidelines and practices would be an advantages

Web Analyst/Programmer

Salary up to £20,232 pa

To assist with the design and implementation of a wide range of information systems
Essential skills needed include:

- Knowledge of ASP.Net, Visual Basic and .Net framework 2.0
- Experience of working as part of a development team

Any understanding of project management methods and web interface design would be an advantage.

For an informal discussion please contact, **Rob Neil** on **01233 330850**

For an application form and further details please contact **Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford Kent** or e-mail **recruitment@ashford.gov.uk**

Closing date: Monday 4th August 2008

Interviews will be held on:
Junior Technical Support Officer 26th August 2008
Web Analyst/Programmer 27th August 2008

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Listening, Learning, Leading

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Housing Services, Planning & Communities

SUPPORTED HOUSING TEAM LEADER

£29,544 to £34,899 plus Essential User Car Allowance

Shepway Housing Services are making changes to the way services are delivered to our tenants in Supported Housing and the wider community. As a result an exciting opportunity has arisen for the newly created post of Supported Housing Team Leader. We are seeking an exceptional and innovative person to lead our team of 12 Supported Housing Officers.

Applicants will have sound knowledge of the Supporting People Framework, Supported Housing and working with older people. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years in a role that demonstrates the ability to motivate and lead members of a dispersed workforce, encouraging their staff to work on their own initiative and as part of the team. A sound, in depth knowledge of both statutory, voluntary agencies and partnership working will also be required.

You must be passionate about providing a service that makes a difference to the lives of our service users; be a confident communicator, with an enthusiastic, proactive, energetic approach plus a car owner / driver. You will also have a good working knowledge of Control Centres, Telecare and their applications.

The successful applicant will be required to undergo both an enhanced CRB and Airwaves check. Supported Housing provides a 24 hour, 365 days a year service therefore flexibility and willingness to work other than office hours on occasions is essential.

For an informal discussion about this post contact Shelley Squance on 01303 853186 or Angela Vince on 01303 853184.

Applications details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk or email: jobs@shepway.gov.uk or call our 24 hour answer phone service on 01303 853481

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 1 August 2008

Shepway District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY
Tel: 01303 853000
www.shepway.gov.uk

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.

achievement employability experience development

Sheppey College

European Union

Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Administration and Office Skills Level 2 or 3 Post Ref: SH/AOS
Word Processing and Office Skills Post Ref: SH/WP
Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Learning Support – Early Years Post Ref: SH/LSSEY
27.75 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Supply Signer Post Ref: SH/S
Various hours available, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 4th August 2008 at 12 noon.

Senior Learning Resources Officer Post Ref: S3
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum

The closing date for the above post is Friday 8th August 2008 at 12 noon.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

Action for Business College

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

achievement employability experience development

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

European Union

Lecturer in Key Skills – Hairdressing Post Ref: 01/109
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills – Catering & Hospitality Post Ref: 06/149
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Basic Skills for Construction Students Post Ref: 08/68
37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Animal Care and Land Based Studies Post Ref: S/AL
Horticulture Post Ref: S/AH
Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Examinations Co-ordinator Post Ref: ECO
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Finance Assistant Expenditure Post Ref: FA2
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

Signer/Learning Facilitator Post Ref: 08/104
37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave until January 2009.

Teaching, Conference, Meeting Unit Assistant Post Ref: 04/172
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

Catering Assistants Post Ref: 08/105
2 posts x 37 hrs per week, 36 weeks term time. Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum

Catering Assistant Post Ref: 08/106
30 hrs per week, salary £11,801 per annum

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

Action for Business College

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 4th August 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Communities Directorate
Community Safety

CCTV Operator

Salary: Circa £13,000 - £14,500 + 7.5% shift allowance

An exciting opportunity has arisen within our CCTV team who's function is to provide high quality CCTV services within the borough of Gravesham.

You will contribute to the achievement of CCTV team objectives which include deterring and detecting crime, increasing personal safety, reducing fear of crime and protecting private and public property.

Often working in pressurised situations you are quick thinking and articulate, with good communication skills. You will also have the ability to work alone or part of a team.

Appropriate experience of working in a CCTV control room or previous security surveillance experience is desirable although not essential as training will be provided to the right candidate.

You will be required to work within an established shift system which includes unsocial hours and weekend working.

Appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a Criminal Records Bureau check. **Ref: CCTV/MW**

Business Directorate
Property Services

Housekeeper - 2 part time posts

Salary: £5.88 per hour

We are looking for energetic, self-motivated individuals with an eye for detail to work as one of a pair of Housekeepers for the front of house at the Civic Centre. You will contribute to high standards of cleanliness and provision of a quality housekeeping service.

Hours are between 6:30am and 10am Monday to Friday and you will required to wear a uniform. **Ref: H/AC**

Housing and Environment Directorate
Housing Services

Estate Services Coordinator

Salary: Package up to Circa £27,000

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to further develop caretaking services provided to residents across the borough. Tenants regularly inform us that a good caretaking service is one of their main priorities and this role is therefore a key one within the department.

Reporting to the Tenancy Services Manager, you will manage, and lead our caretaking service and build on your previous caretaking management experience ensuring innovation and best practice are core to the delivery of the caretaking service. **Ref: ESC/MB**

Tenant Participation Worker

Salary: Circa £17,000 - £21,000

We have an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to encourage and facilitate the involvement of residents across the borough to join our Tenant Participation Team.

In accordance with the Council's resident involvement strategy you will develop and support a range of tenant participation initiatives and promote and develop effective partnerships between residents, members and staff.

You will have proven experience in tenant participation, resident involvement, community development or social housing; excellent written and verbal communication skills and an innovative approach to problem solving. You will be required to undertake data analysis therefore IT literacy is essential.

Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. **Ref: TPW/EM**

Closing date for all posts: 4 August 2008

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00 **Email:** customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy

Innovation Experience Excellence

Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the Country. The first phase, costing £10 million, has already started, which includes a state-of-the-art Animal Centre.

Part time Lecturer, Animal Mana- ement

£21,762 to £29,337 p.a. (pro rata)

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated Animal Management Lecturer to join our existing vibrant and enthusiastic team. As a Lecturer you will be required to tutor, teach and give practical instruction in animal management to a range of students on Further & Higher Education courses.

The successful candidate will need practical experience in an animal care industry plus teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting. A keen interest in a wide range of animal related subjects is essential, as is a qualification in an animal related subject (Degree, Vet Nursing, etc).

In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will also need a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one, excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team. Qualifications A1/A2 (or D32 and D33) would also be an advantage.

This post is part-time, 13 hours per week, working Wednesday & Thursday mornings and all day Friday.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational & teacher training and free car parking, this post also attracts 7 weeks holiday each year (excluding Bank Holidays).

If you would like to apply please forward your CV with a covering letter to the Human Resources Department, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL or e-mail 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

The closing date for applications is Monday, 28th July 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.

Innovation Experience Excellence

Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the Country.

Lecturer, Horticulture

£21,762 to £29,337 per annum

Due to the continued expansion in this curriculum area we are looking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic Lecturer who will be required to teach and give practical instruction to part-time students across a wide range of Further Education courses including the RHS curriculum. The successful candidate will need to have a Level 3 qualification at the minimum, and practical experience in the horticulture industry.

In addition to the requirements detailed above, candidates will ideally have teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting together with a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one. Applicants will also need to be flexible, as the hours will include teaching some evening classes and traveling to our satellite centres.

Sessional Lecturer, Arboriculture

£18.00 per hour
(Part-time, working 2.5 hours per week, term-time only)

We are also looking for a highly motivated industry professional to teach a Level 2 ABC Certificate in Arboriculture one evening per week.

Applicants will need to have a relevant Level 3 qualification, have had experience of working within an Arboriculture role and ideally will have relevant teaching/instruction experience.

Candidates for both roles will also need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team.

If you would like to apply for either of the above roles, please send your CV to the Human Resources Department, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL or e-mail us at 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

The closing date is 25th July 2008.

Interviews will be held on 1st August 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.

Kent County Council

Network Manager

Starting salary £35,370, with progression through contribution related pay to £40,705 per annum
Tunbridge Wells, across Broadwater Children's Centre and St Paul's Children's Centre

In the context of promoting the Government's Early Years Agenda, Every Child Matters and The Children's Plan, Ashford local Children's Services Partnership offers an exciting opportunity across Ashford for a range of skilled, creative and committed people to join in the development of Children's Centres and Programmes to provide a comprehensive range of services for children under 5 and their families. Children's Centres bring together a range of services for children under 5 and their families in a friendly environment. Children's Centres are being developed across Kent as part of the Government's commitment to provide the best start in life for every child, support for parents, good quality childcare and safer, stronger communities.

This post will involve managing teams of staff developing a range of projects and services, which will implement the principles and core offer to be delivered within the Children's Centre. You will need to work alongside staff from a range of backgrounds and professions and lead effective multi-agency working. Experience of working within local communities is vital, as local children and families are key partners in the development of their Children's Centre.

You will have a degree or equivalent professional qualification in health, social work, education, community work or a similar field. Experience of working with children, families and communities as well as project management is essential. Team management and good interpersonal and communication skills is also a must for this exciting role. Owing to the sensitive nature of the work, an ability to remain confidential at all times is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0321.**

Closing date: Midday, 30th July 2008.

Kent Safe Schools is widely recognised as a successful countywide organisation, highly skilled in developing peer-led approaches to tackling social issues and improving outcomes for children and young people across Kent.

Kent Restorative Justice Co-ordinator

Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 per annum
Fixed term until 31st March 2010 and is dependent on continued funding Countywide - base negotiable

We are currently seeking an individual with the skills necessary to lead on the successful implementation of the Restorative Practice schools accreditation scheme. To achieve this it will be necessary to forge excellent working relationships with headteachers and other key partners to develop effective training, guidance, resources and support for schools and the wider community.

The ability to work collaboratively to influence change within the school and wider environment is essential, as is an extensive knowledge and experience of Restorative Practices.

You will have a professional qualification in a relevant field and experience or further professional development relating to Restorative Approaches. This will include an understanding of relevant legislation, guidance, key issues and models/approaches for implementing Restorative Practices within schools and settings. Excellent communication skills and the ability to collate, analyse and interpret data, in order to improve service delivery and outcomes, is essential. **Ref: CFE/08/0331**

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.

Kent Safe Schools Project Officer

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pro rata
30 hours per week - initially funded for 12 months from appointment - Secondment will be considered
Shepway, Folkestone

We are seeking an experienced, dedicated person to take forward this new and exciting role within the educational environment.

The role will be based within the Causeway Team in Folkestone and will involve working with primary school aged children to establish and support Kent Safe Schools and Causeway projects in schools and the wider community. The aim of the project is to reduce exclusions, improve access to further learning opportunities and provide alternative and positive solutions for the children and families that are supported by the Causeway team within the Shepway area. You will work with agencies, schools, parents and young people with the intention of improving outcomes for young people at risk of disaffection and/or exclusion through mentoring, motivational activities and support to parents and schools.

The post will be employed by Kent Safe Schools but will have access to all relevant organisations and agencies. **Ref: CFE/08/0332**

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.

A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same, so neither are our people.

Anti-Bullying Case Worker

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 per annum
Term-time only, initially funded for 12 months

Working closely with parents/carers, other professionals and schools where open dialogue has become difficult with a view to resolving bullying issues, you will offer support to young people to reduce incidents of bullying which will involve working one-to-one and/or in small groups. The work will also involve going into the schools to participate in reintegration, follow-up and preventative activities.

You will be full of ideas and enjoy using your initiative, joining our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

To succeed, you will work together with a wide range of agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the parents and young people are met. So if you have the experience and commitment to working with young people we would love to hear from you. **Ref: CFE/08/0330**

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.

Invicta House, Maidstone

Consumer Direct Advisors

Starting salary £15,826, with progression through contribution related pay to £16,627 per annum

The service, hosted by Kent County Council and funded by the Office of Fair Trading, is delivered from our state-of-the art Contact Centre in central Maidstone.

Offering consumers across the South East of England telephone-based advice on their rights and guidance on resolving consumer problems, you will be liaising with Trading Standards professionals and other agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by an ability to analyse the circumstances around the complaint and offer the appropriate course of action to the consumer in an accurate and easily understandable manner.

The busy nature of this service requires you to balance the need to provide appropriate advice whilst maintaining an awareness of call handling targets.

You'll be PC literate and combine proven competence in a customer-focused role with a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills. Although some kind of legal experience would be helpful, you will be provided with in-depth training.

Working hours are subject to a shift pattern that will include some weekend work. **Ref: CMY/08/0176**

Contact Centre Agents

Starting salary £13,959 (+ 5% shift allowance), with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 per annum

To support our continued success we are looking for people with a positive, flexible attitude and excellent communication skills to join the friendly team in our state-of-the-art Contact Centre.

Everything we do is about providing the most customer-focused, individually tailored service we can. The diversity of the calls we receive means that each call is unique and, therefore, requires a unique response.

If you'd like to start using your customer service skills in a role that challenges you and really makes a difference, we'd like to hear from you!

Dealing with calls from the public, you'll provide advice, interpret queries and re-route calls appropriately.

Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by a real service ethic and an ability to deal with a challenging variety of calls.

You'll be handling everything from registering a birth or a death to enrolling a caller on an Adult Education class or directing calls from some of the more vulnerable people living in Kent. Together with demonstrated competence in a customer-focused role and a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills, you'll also need to be PC literate.

In return for your skills, you'll benefit from a competitive starting salary, excellent development opportunities and a role that will continue to hallenge you.

To find out more about Contact Kent, attend our Open Evening at Invicta House from 5pm - 7pm on Tuesday 29th July. To confirm your attendance or for further details, call Pat Croucher on 01622 221406, 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday.

Working hours for these roles are subject to a rotating shift pattern which will include some weekend and bank holiday work. Ref: CMY/08/0177

Closing date: Midday, 13th August 2008.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2007-June 2008) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of the TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
18. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
19. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
20. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.

    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.

    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.

    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.

    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.

    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
21. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
22. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
23. All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
24. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
25. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
26. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
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Academic Support Assistant

Ashford
Salary: salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week, Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College.Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010.To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008.We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.
To apply/more information: Personnel Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 08/74
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Admin Assistance/ Bookeeper

Maidstone
Salary: Pay dep. on exp.
Part time 20hrs. Previous office experience, computer literate. Quick Books knowledge.
To apply/more information: Anna First Choice Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mail@firstchoiceservicesltd.co.uk

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Medway
Salary: £19,841 - £22,332 per annum
Based in the University's Partnership Division you will undertake a range of secretarial and administrative duties in support of the functions of the Partnership Division with a primary focus on supporting the administration and development of work based learning and employer engagement activities and projects. You will have a good level of secondary education, strong IT skills with a sound knowledge of Microsoft Access, PowerPoint and Word and the ability to work with a wide range of client groups, staff and students. You will need experience of working to tight deadlines and be prepared to travel to other University campuses, work flexible hours at peak times and be able to work on your own initiative with a minimum of supervision. We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community. To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 18 July 2008.
To apply/more information: University of Greenwich
Quoting Job Ref: 01005/K3
Email jobs@gre.ac.uk

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - WEST KENT and MEDWAY

Medway
Salary: Salary: £16,217 - £18,430 pro ratai
Closing Date: 15th August 2008
As a key member of the Administration Team you will be required to provide efficient and high quality administrative support to the staff team of West Kent and Medway Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service, based in Gillingham. The post requires you to be an excellent organiser, to be able to manage your time well and respond quickly to requests. You should have sound typing skills and confidence in using computer applications - particularly Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. The ability to input data accurately is essential.You will also be confident in communicating with a wide cross-section of staff, young people who use the service and external agencies.You need to be able to work within a busy environment, have the ability to prioritise, and work to tight deadlines. Additional duties include taking referrals, responding to telephone calls and minute taking.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: REF: 498
Tel: 01795 590635,
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk,

Health and Safety Administrator

Gravesend
Salary: Circa £16,500 - £18,500
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
As a Health and Safety Administrator you will provide administration and operational support to the Health and Safety Advisor within the Housing and Environment Directorate. You will have previous experience of working in a similar role. Excellent communication skills, IT skills as well as the ability to work on your own initiative are also essential in this role. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information: Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: HS/GH
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Part-time PA to Director (Housing and Environment)

Gravesend
Salary: Circa £17,000 - £21,000 pro rata
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
18.5 hours per week An experienced administrator, you will provide a high level secretarial and administrative support to the Director [Housing and Environment] and to other divisional managers as necessary. You will be customer focused and articulate with the ability to work on your own initiative as well as part of a team. Excellent communication skills both oral and written and the ability to organise are essential. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information: Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: PA/CR
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Receptionist

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for an interview.
To apply/more information: Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Finding staff
24-7
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Research and Administration Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £12,000
Closing Date: 21/07/2008
30 hours per week. Visit Kent is the official tourism body for Kent based in offices at Maidstone and Canterbury. The Canterbury team is a public/private sector partnership with over 75 stakeholders supporting Kent's £2.5bn visitor economy. We are seeking an assistant to join the team based in Canterbury. You should have excellent customer service and administrations skills, and be tenacious yet professional in your approach to business liaison. Working as part of a small team we need a person who is self motivated with an enthusiasm for Kent and tourism. Visit www.visitkent.co.uk/business for more details of the position and application details. Interviews will be held on 23rd and 24th July in Canterbury. 'Visit Kent is an equal opportunities employer'
To apply/more information: Sharon Dawson Visit Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 862789
Email sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Trainee Registry Administrator

Tonbridge
Salary: £11,580 to £13,777 pa
This is an exciting opportunity for someone with a genuine interest in administration working who also wants the opportunity to undertake training in order to achieve a Level 2 Business Administration or Customer Service National Vocational Qualification. The role will include a range of administration and customer service duties involving student data, registers of attendance, student admission and enrolment, student absence monitoring and examinations. The post holder will be responsible for distributing the incoming post, assisting with the preparation of the outgoing post and provided support and cover for the College Front Desk and switchboard. The successful candidate will need to be a team player with a flexible approach and the ability to work on their own initiative. Good administration, customer service, communication and organisational skills are essential as are strong IT skills.
To apply/more information: Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 850551
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Seasonal Gardeners

Hythe
Salary: tba
Temporary position, contracted until 30th September Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is looking for temporary gardeners to join our team responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of our grounds at Port Lympne Park. You must be physically fit and hardworking with good general horticultural knowledge and the ability to work well unsupervised or as part of a team. A valid driving licence is essential. Previous experience working as a gardener is preferred. Working 40 hours a week, this position offers the successful candidate the opportunity to work in a unique environment where no two days are ever the same. Working hours are: 8.00am to 4:30pm, five days a week out of seven. Immediate start. To apply please send a recent CV and covering letter to Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager. Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent. CT21 4PD. Or E-mail: personnel@howletts.net
To apply/more information: Helen Dallimore-Jones Howletts Wild Animal Park
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email personnel@howletts.net

Tractor Driver

Gravesend
Salary: £300.79 per week
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
The horticultural department are looking for an experienced tractor driver to assist with the maintenance and cutting of grass verges, open spaces and sport pitches. Applicants will also undertake general grounds maintenance when not operating tractor equipment. A full clean driving license is essential for this post. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information: Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: TD/SA
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Assistant Catering Manager (Port Lympne)

Hythe
Salary: TBA
Committed To Conservation Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks is part of a charity based organisation committed to protecting rare and endangered animals from extinction through captive breeding and reintroduction programmes. We are proud to be the home of one of the world's most prized wild animal collections. If you want the chance to gain valuable experience in a fast paced catering operation whilst contributing to the success of a respected animal charity read on… We are looking for a highly motivated, pro-active individual to assist the Catering Manager in our busy catering operation at Port Lympne Park. You must have a strong desire to succeed in a fast paced commercial environment where the customer always comes first. The successful applicant will have prior experience to at least a supervisory level in the hospitality industry, hold a basic food hygiene certificate and be profit orientated and customer focused with excellent team leadership and organisational skills. Working 40 hours a week (day shifts) five days out of seven, including weekends. To apply for the above vacancy; please send a recent CV and covering letter, stating the position applied for, to: Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent. CT21 4PD. E-mail: personnel@howletts.net Visit our website: www.totallywild.net
To apply/more information: Howletts Wild Animal Park
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Chef (Port Lympne)

Hythe
Salary: TBA
Committed To Conservation Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks is part of a charity based organisation committed to protecting rare and endangered animals from extinction through captive breeding and reintroduction programmes. We are proud to be the home of one of the world's most prized wild animal collections. If you want the chance to gain valuable experience in a fast paced catering operation whilst contributing to the success of a respected animal charity read on…We are currently recruiting for an experienced chef for Port Lympne Park to prepare and cook hot and cold food for our busy cafeteria style restaurant. Applicants must be trained to at least Demi Chef standard and have previous experience working in a similar fast paced environment and hold a food hygiene certificate. Working hours are 40 hours a week, (day shifts) five days out of seven, including weekends. Reporting to the Group Head Chef, this position offers you the chance to develop your skills in a unique and challenging environment where the customer always comes first. To apply for the above vacancy; please send a recent CV and covering letter, stating the position applied for, to: Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent. CT21 4PD. E-mail: personnel@howletts.net Visit our website: www.totallywild.net
To apply/more information: Howletts Wild Animal Park
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part-Time Cook/ Kitchen Assistant

Maidstone
Salary: TBC
The Cornwallis suite Maidstone has a vacancy for a permanent part-time cook/kitchen assistant to work in our busy function venue. Duties to include food prep, cooking in the absence of the Chef & other kitchen duties. The successful applicant will need to be flexible with working hours, have previous experience of working in a busy catering environment & commited to providing high quality food. Salary is £6.50 per hour. Experienced Silver service waiting staff also required. September start. Please email CV.
To apply/more information: Grub n Stuff
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email grubnstuffcatering@tiscali.co.uk

Seasonal Catering Assistants (Howletts and Port Lympne)

Kent
Salary: TBA
Committed To Conservation Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks is part of a charity based organisation committed to protecting rare and endangered animals from extinction through captive breeding and reintroduction programmes. We are proud to be the home of one of the world's most prized wild animal collections. If you want the chance to gain valuable experience in a fast paced catering opera We are looking for seasonal catering assistants to work on an as needs basis providing our Food and Beverages departments at both Howletts and Port Lympne Parks with much needed support during our busy Summer season which is May through to October. Previous customer service experience will be an advantage but is not essential as full training will be provided. Applicants must be literate and numerate and available to work approx 40 hours a week including weekends. To apply for one of the above vacancies; please send a recent CV and covering letter, stating the position applied for, to: Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent. CT21 4PD. E-mail: personnel@howletts.net Visit our website: www.totallywild.net
To apply/more information: Howletts Wild Animal Park
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Registered Social Worker

Sittingbourne
Salary: £24,000 - £32,000
We are an independent fostering agency based in Sittingbourne, Kent, offering a friendly and supportive environment working with children who have behavioural and learning difficulties. Hythe House is registered with Ofsted and The Pan London Consortium. All our foster carers are based in Kent. We are seeking to recruit a registered social worker. Duties will include recruiting, training, supervising and supporting carers for the fostering task. For further information and an application form please contact Jackie Stevens or Gary Duffy.
To apply/more information: Jackie Stevens or Gary Duffy Hythe House Support
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 438634
Email GaryDuffy@hythehousesupport.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Contract Surveyor

Canterbury
Salary: £30 - 35k
Closing Date: 31/07/2008
Estimating, valuations, invoicing etc., Construction experience and qualification, computer literate.
To apply/more information: Lynne Beckley Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: LBCS-AMC/072008
Tel: 01227 819419
Email lbeckley@canterbury.serco.com

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Multi-Skilled energy assessor

Kent
Salary: tba
By law trained energy assessors will need to carry out an estimated 3 million energy assessments in the year from this October - 200,000 commercial buildings, 1.8 million homes being rented and 1.1 million being sold (2.1 million in normal house sale years). Applicants are there fore required to train now - no previous surveying experience is required - at our London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester training centres which are approved by the government-appointed awarding body for the built environment. The subsidised training is taken in separately bookable 1 week modules usually around current commitments and you qualify as a multi-skilled domestic and commercial energy assessor, flood risk assessor and home inspector. Homes now being sold already require assessments with average fees for £70 being paid to our assessors - fees for the 1.8 million rented homes from October are expected to be similar. Fees for currently optional home inspectors average £250 - commercial assessments are expected to be higher. Up to 15 Domestic assessments or 6 commercial assessments or home inspections are estimated to be carried out in a week, subject to size of properties and supply. As well as thousands of assessors carrying our energy assessments, 7500 home inspectors will be needed upon government making home inspections compulsory - less that a thousand are currently certified.
To apply/more information: Home Inspector
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 335 1700
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Contact Centre Agents

Maidstone
Salary: Starting salary £13,959 (+ 5% shift allowance) with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 per annum
Closing Date: Midday, 13th August 2008.
To support our continued success we are looking for people with a positive, flexible attitude and excellent communication skills to join the friendly team in our state-of-the-art Contact Centre. Everything we do is about providing the most customer-focused, individually tailored service we can. The diversity of the calls we receive means that each call is unique and, therefore, requires a unique response. If you'd like to start using your customer service skills in a role that challenges you and really makes a difference, we'd like to hear from you! Dealing with calls from the public, you'll provide advice, interpret queries and re-route calls appropriately. Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by a real service ethic and an ability to deal with a challenging variety of calls. You'll be handling everything from registering a birth or a death to enrolling a caller on an Adult Education class or directing calls from some of the more vulnerable people living in Kent. Together with demonstrated competence in a customer-focused role and a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills, you'll also need to be PC literate. In return for your skills, you'll benefit from a competitive starting salary, excellent development opportunities and a role that will continue to challenge you. To find out more about Contact Kent, attend our Open Evening at Invicta House from 5pm - 7pm on Tuesday 29th July. To confirm your attendance or for further details, call Pat Croucher on 01622 221406, 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday. Working hours for these roles are subject to a rotating shift pattern which will include some weekend and bank holiday work.
To apply/more information: Pat Croucher Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CMY/08/0177
Tel: 01622 221406,
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Customer Advisors - Servicing

Ashford
Salary: £16,500 OTE (pro-rata)
You will handle telephone calls from our customers, helping them with every aspect of account maintenance and promoting our award-winning products which can make or save them money. So who are we looking for? The answer is anyone with a warm, friendly and outgoing personality, and

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a strong customer focus. You might be returning to work after a break, you may be attending or left further education, or maybe you're just looking for a change of career. All kinds of people work here so you're bound to fit in from the word go! In return for giving great customer service and hitting your sales targets we offer an excellent package of salary and commission, company pension, flexible holiday entitlement, share save schemes and all the training and development you will need to get where you want to be. just come along to our open evening at Charter House, Park St, Ashford, TN24 8EH. Tuesday, 15th July any time between 4.30 pm – 9.00 pm. If you can't make it don't worry, just call our recruitment line or visit our website. www.alliance-leister-careers.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Alliance & Leicester
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 212173
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service Assistant (Housing Benefit) Job Share

Gravesend
Salary: Circa £15,500 - £18,500 pro rata
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
18.5 hours - Thursday, Friday and alternate Wednesdays.
The Benefits Customer Service Assistant is responsible for managing enquiries from customers relating to, in the main, Housing Benefit and Council Tax with particular emphasis on ensuring excellent customer delivery at first point of contact. You will have previous experience of working in a customer focused front-line service, adhering to strict procedures and providing outstanding levels of customer care. Excellent communication skills and the ability to deal with customers confidently, politely and efficiently are essential. Good IT skills are also prerequisite for this role. Experience of previous handling of Housing Benefit / Council Tax enquiries would be advantageous. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: PTCSA/AT
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@ gravesham.gov.uk

Rent Officer

Gravesend
Salary: Circa £15,500 - £18,500
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
As a Rent Officer you will work as part of a team providing a comprehensive rent collection service to the tenants of Gravesham Borough Council. You will have previous experience of working in a customer focused front-line service, providing outstanding levels of customer care and handling cash. Excellent communication skills, IT skills as well as the ability to work on your own initiative are also essential in this role. You must also have a full driving license and use of a vehicle. You will be required to work unsocial hours from time to time. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: RO/MB
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@ gravesham.gov.uk

Repairs Assistant

Gravesend
Salary: £15,500 - £18,500
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
The Customer Service Repairs Assistant is responsible for managing enquiries from customers relating to, in the main, Housing repairs with particular emphasis on ensuring excellent customer delivery at first point of contact. You will have previous experience of working in a customer focused front-line service, adhering to strict procedures and providing outstanding levels of customer care. Excellent communication skills and the ability to deal with customers confidently, politely and efficiently are essential. Good IT skills are also prerequisite for this role. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: RA/AT
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@ gravesham.gov.uk

Domestic

Domestic Assistants - Evenings 15 hours per week, Term Time Only

Broadstairs
Salary: Salary: £3,996
Closing Date: 12 noon, Friday 29th August 2008
15 hours per week, Term Time Only. To undertake general cleaning duties and maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene at Bradstow. For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children. For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. . Please note that CV's will not be considered.
To apply/more information:
Bradstow School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 608727
Email personnel@ bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Driver Labourer

Gravesend
Salary: £275.96 per week
Closing Date: 21 July 2008
The waste management department are looking for motivated people to join the refuse and street cleansing team to help keep the streets and open spaces of Gravesham free of rubbish, litter, flyposting, graffiti and flytipping. Duties include collection of refuse/recycling, street sweeping, emptying of dog/litter bins and the clearance of dumped rubbish. Applicants will need to flexible in the duties that they perform. A full clean driving license is essential for this post. HGV applicants are welcome. For an application form please contact: Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU. Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Medway Council
Quoting Job Ref: DL/SA
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@ gravesham.gov.uk

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Home Carers

Sevenoaks
Salary: £8.50 per hour - £7.25 to £9.25
Home Carers required! £8.50 per hour for specialist contracts. £7.25 to £9.25 for ad-hoc calls. NVQ 2 desirable. Call: Ashton Macey Ltd on 01732 523477 (office hours)
To apply/more information:
Ashton Macey Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 523477
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Housekeeper - 2 part time posts

Gravesend
Salary: Salary: £5.88 per hour
Closing Date: 4 August 2008
We are looking for energetic, self-motivated individuals with an eye for detail to work as one of a pair of Housekeepers for the front of house at the Civic Centre. You will contribute to high standards of cleanliness and provision of a quality housekeeping service. Hours are between 6:30am and 10am Monday to Friday and you will required to wear a uniform.
To apply/more information:
Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: H/AC
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@ gravesham.gov.uk

Assistant Head Chef

Canterbury
Salary: Range starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post RC01
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Assistant to the Head of Quality and Staff Development

Tonbridge
Salary: £19,123 to £21,762 pa
Closing Date: 25th July 08
This high profile role will provide a wide range of administrative and secretarial support to the Head of Quality & Staff Development and contribute to the effective implementation of quality systems and monitoring of teaching and learning across the college. The successful candidate will have good, current secretarial and administrative skills with experience of setting up and maintaining record keeping systems, have excellent IT, communication and organisational skills as well as the ability to work on their own initiative and as part of a team. Previous experience of working in Education and supporting at a senior management level would also be an advantage.
To apply/more information:
Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 850551
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Chaplain

Ashford
Salary: TBC
This is a new and exciting developmental opportunity for a Chaplain to provide a wide range of pastoral support and guidance to the students and staff at Ashford Christ Church. Whilst the Chaplain does not necessarily need to be a qualified teacher, experience in education and Section 48 inspection would be desirable. In particular we are looking for the following: A good communicator Motivator and Inspiring leader with drive and enthusiasm A friendly and compassionate character Self-motivated and professional in approach Visit our website: www.ashfordchristchurch.com For further information and an application pack please contact the HR Officer by email or phone. Appointment is subject to Enhanced CRB check.
To apply/more information:
Samantha Sullivan
Ashford Christ Church
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 623465
Email samanthasullivan@ ashfordchristchurch.com

Curriculum Co-ordinator Mechanical Engineering

Canterbury
Salary: Starting from £26,365 per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
First and National Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering required. 37 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/77
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Agriculture/ Horticulture and Animal Care

Canterbury
Salary: Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week,38 weeks per year term time.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 04/118
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT/ Retail and Commercial/ Leisure and Tourism/ Catering/ Business and Law

Canterbury
Salary: Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 08/66
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Adult Learning Grant Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: Salary starting £14,535 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks per year term time. Fixed term to 31 August 2009.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post EMA
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Kent Restorative Justice Co-ordinator

Ashford
Salary: Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 per annum Fixed term until 31st March 2010 and is dependent on continued funding Countywide - base negotiable
Closing Date: Midday, 12th August 2008.
Kent Safe Schools is widely recognised as a successful countywide organisation, highly skilled in developing peer-led approaches to tackling social issues and improving outcomes for children and young people across Kent. We are currently seeking an individual with the skills necessary to lead on the successful implementation of the Restorative Practice schools accreditation scheme. To achieve this it will be necessary to forge excellent working relationships with headteachers and other key partners to develop effective training, guidance, resources and support for schools and the wider community. The ability to work collaboratively to influence change within the school and wider environment is essential, as is an extensive knowledge and experience of Restorative Practices. You will have a professional qualification in a relevant field and experience or further professional development relating to Restorative Approaches. This will include an understanding of relevant legislation, guidance, key issues and models/approaches for implementing Restorative Practices within schools and settings. Excellent communication skills and the ability to collate, analyse and interpret data, in order to improve service delivery and outcomes, is essential. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/ jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref:
CFE/08/0332
Tel: 0845 8247 904.
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Kent Safe Schools Project Officer

Ashford
Salary: Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pro rata 30 hours per week - initially funded for 12 months from appointment - Secondment will be considered Shepway, Folkestone
Closing Date: Midday, 12th August 2008.
We are seeking an experienced, dedicated person to take forward this new and exciting role within the educational environment. The role will be based within the Causeway Team in Folkestone and will involve working with primary school aged children to establish and support Kent Safe Schools and Causeway projects in schools and the wider community. The aim of the project is to reduce exclusions, improve access to further learning opportunities and provide alternative and positive solutions for the children and families that are supported by the Causeway team within the Shepway area. You will work with agencies, schools, parents and young people with the intention of improving outcomes for young people at risk of disaffection and/or exclusion through mentoring, motivational activities and support to parents and schools. The post will be employed by Kent Safe Schools but will have access to all relevant organisations and agencies. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref:
CFE/08/0332
Tel: 0845 8247 904.
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Learning Resources Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
7.5 hrs per week, 1 year fixed term,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post LRCA1
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Access to HE

Canterbury
Salary: £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week. 2 years fixed term.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/97
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/04
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Construction - Trowel Occupations and Key Skills

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum 18.5 hrs per week, Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College.Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010.To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008.We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 08/72
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

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Lecturer Horticultral

Tonbridge
Salary: £17,762 to £29,337
Closing Date: 25 July
Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom. The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers. a £55 Million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the country. Due to the continues expansion in this curriculum area we are looking to receruit a motivated and enthusiastic Lecturer who will be required to teach and give practical instruction to part-time students across a wide range of Further Education courses including the RHS curriculum. The Successful candidate will need to have a Level 3 qualification at the minimum and practical experience in the horticulture industry. In addition to the requirements detailed above, candidates will ideally have teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting together with a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one. Applicants will also need to be flexible, as the hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres. Candidates for the above role will also need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team If you would like to apply for the above position, please send your CV to the Human Resources Department, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL or email 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk The Closing date is Friday 25 July 2008, Interviews will be held on 1st August 2008 visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk. Hadlow college is an committed equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Human Resources
Deaprtment
Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Lecturer Hospitality and Catering

Canterbury
Salary: £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
27.75 hrs per week.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 04/154
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer in Journalism

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 08/55
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Part-time Lecturer, Animal Management

Tonbridge
Salary: £21,762 to £29,337 p.a. (pro rata)
Closing Date: Monday, 28th July 2008
We are looking to recruit a highly motivated Animal Management Lecturer to join our existing vibrant and enthusiastic team. As a lecturer you will be required to tutor, teach and give practical instruction in animal management to a range of students on Further & Higher Education courses. The successful candidate will need practical experience in an animal care industry plus teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting. A keen interest in a wide range of animal related subjects is essential, as is a qualification in an animal related subject (Degree, Vet Nursing etc). In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will also need a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one, excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team. Qualifications A1/A2 (or D32 and D33) would also be an advantage. This post is part-time, 13 hours per

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week, working Wednesday & Thursday mornings and all day Friday. As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational & teacher training and free car parking, this post also attracts 7 weeks holiday each year (excluding Bank Holidays). If you would like to apply please forward your CV with a covering letter to the Human Resources Department, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge Kent TN11 0AL or email us. Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk
To apply/more information:
Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Peripatetic Teachers

Canterbury
Salary: tba
Closing Date: Monday 21st July
Piano; Guitar; Drums; Wind; Brass and Strings required to join our newly created Music Department668f3fSpires Academy opened in September 2007 to transform the life chances of students and people in the local community. Spires Academy has close links with The Marlowe Academy and Folkestone Academy. Could you be part of an enthusiastic, dynamic team that supports a new Academy - including new buildings and resources? Do you want to be part of a team that works within and outside the Academy to develop students' learning Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations with students? If so, we want to hear from you.
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Personal Tutor

Tonbridge
Salary: £19,953 - £23,588 pa
Closing Date: 12 noon, 31 July 2008
Joining our Tutorial Development team in this newly created post, you will ensure that students who require additional help are fully supported throughout their time at the College. You will achieve this by planning and delivering a full programme of tutorials focusing on functional skills, Every Child Matters themes, innovation and personal effectiveness. It represents an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand experience of tutoring while pursuing a professional teaching qualification. To be considered, you must have a track record of working with young learners aged 14-19, ideally in a Further Education environment. A fluent communicator, you should also be keen to learn and develop your skills. All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate. The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working benefits; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more. For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department.
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Pre 16 Tutor

Canterbury
Salary: Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week, fixed term post ending 31 August 2010.
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 07/16
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Resource Assistant Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £14,535 per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
37 hrs per week,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post 06/08
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Sessional Lecturer, Arboriculture

Ashford
Salary: £18.00 per hour (Part-Time, working 2.5 hours per week, term-time only)
Closing Date: 25 July
Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom. The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers. a £55 Million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the country. We are also looking for highly motivated industry professional to teach a level 2 ABC Certificate in Arboriculture one evening per week. Applicants will need to have a relevant Level 3 qualification, have had experience of working within an Arboriculture role and ideally will have relevant teaching/instruction experience. Candidates for the above role will also need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team If you would liek to apply, please send your CV to the Human Resources department, Hadlow College, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL or e-mail us at 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk. The Interviews will be held on 1st August 2008. Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
The Human Resources Department
Hadlow College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@hadlow.ac.uk

Supply Lecturers in Animal Care and Land Based Studies

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
Various hours available,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post S/AL
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturers in Equine Studies

Canterbury
Salary: salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
Various hours available,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post S/EQ
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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Teaching Assistant/ Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Ashford
Salary: KS3 - Teaching Assistant KS7 - for HLTA hours
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
We are looking for an experienced teaching assistant who wishes to advance their career to become an HLTA or an existing HLTA to join the team at Victoria Road Primary. The primary focus of the post will be to work under the direction of a teacher as part of the professional team to support learning activities for pupils. When qualified as an HLTA, they would deliver lessons set by or with teachers. The successful candidate will have achieved a recognised qualification at level 2 or above in English/Literacy, Maths/ Numeracy and be computer literate. Victoria Road is a "Good" school (Ofsted July 2007) and has a friendly learning environment, and a good relationship with parents and the local community. The children are enthusiastic and well behaved. If you are interested in this post, please contact Mrs Liz Steele for an application pack by phone or email. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Interview Date: 25th July 2008.
To apply/more information:
Victoria Road Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 620044
Email school@victoria-road.kent.sch.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
18.5 hrs per week,
To apply/more information:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: Post TD13
Tel: 01227 811282
(24hr answerphone)
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Design Engineers

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book we are looking for new staff. Experience in 3D Modeling an advantage.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Embedded Software Engineer

Margate
Salary: TBC
TVOne is a leading UK manufacturer of Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets. We are looking for an experienced embedded software designer to enhance our R&D team. Your role will include designing and developing the software to control our CORIO video processing engine, video encoders & decoders and design of user interfaces for our latest HD video processing products. Key Skill Set: • Multi-threading & Multi-tasking software design skills. • Very Strong C programming for embedded systems. • Comfortable with software and hardware debugging. • Experience of 32 Bit Micro processors in embedded product design. To apply contact: Amanda Mallett, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG.
To apply/more information:
Amanda Mallett
TVOne
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 873300
Email recruit.europe@tvone.com

Industrial Painters

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Jig Borers

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Jig Grinders

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Millers

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the following.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Sheet Metal Workers

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Skilled Welder/ Fabricator

Deal
Salary: Approx £17000 p.a. +OT
Required on a permanent basis (subject to trial period of up to 3 months). Must be fully skilled in MIG welding, TIG welding experience is also preferable, although not necessary. Applicants should be able to work under own initiative, well motivated and able to read drawings. 37.5 hour basic week (Monday to Friday).
To apply/more information:
Andy Stevens
Major Fabrications
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 614541
Email andystevens@majorfabrications.com

Toolmakers

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Turners

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Wire Eroders

Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Due to an increasing order book, we are looking for the above.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Graduate, Trainees

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

Gravesend
Salary: £14,751 during training
Closing Date: Monday the 28th of July
Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route? Northfleet Technology College, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2008 in: • Music • Mathematics Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.ntc.kent.sch.uk or by emailing Gill Taylor.
To apply/more information:
Gill Taylor
Northfleet Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk

HR, Recruitment

Are you an EMPLOYER or APPRENTICE

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBC
Kita Ltd with over 40 years of experience in Training and Development has a Training package that will suit your needs. We offer a range of training from level 2 to level 4, in several Engineering disciplines including manufacturing, production, maintenance and management, plus many more NVQ and Apprenticeship qualifications across a wide spectrum of business areas. If you are an employer or you are interested in an apprenticeship or an NVQ programme and want to know more please contact us.
To apply/more information:
Carol Traxler
Kita Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 421737
Email carol.traxler@kitaltd.co.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

IT Network Technician

Sittingbourne
Salary: salary circa £20k
Closing Date: 23rd July, 2008
We require a knowledgeable and highly adaptable individual to provide a fast and efficient IT service for our 5 servers, 140 workstations and 55 printer and copiers. Our IT capability will expand to keep pace with our business needs and you will need previous experience of a similar role. The post is full time (an average of 37 hours per week) with extensive travel to all Demelza locations and a degree of flexible working. You must demonstrate:- • Ability to install and working knowledge of microsoft applications • Knowledge of hardware, fault diagnostics and repair • Good communication skills • A problem solving mentality and flexible approach to changing priorities • Database skills would be an advantage. For an informal chat call Steve Winch, Facilities Manager on 01795 845227 for an application pack please call our recruitment line on 01795 845295.
To apply/more information:
Demelza House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 845295
Email info@demelza.org.uk

Junior Technical Support Officer

Ashford
Salary: Up to £16,416 pa
Closing Date: Monday 4th August 2008
An internal reorganisation means that we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to complement our existing team in providing planned and responsive ICT support. You will help provide first line support for all the council's ICT desktop equipment. Essential skills needed include: • Strong customer facing and customer care skills including the ability to communicate efficiently by email, telephone and face to face • Sound knowledge of PC hardware, Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office applications Interviews will be held on: 26th August 2008 For an application form and further details please contact Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane,Ashford Kent or e-mail us.
To apply/more information:
Ashford Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

Web Analyst/ Programmer

Ashford
Salary: Up to £20,232 pa
Closing Date: Monday 4th August 2008
To assist with the design and implementation of a wide range of information systems. Essential skills needed include: • Knowledge of ASP.Net, Visual Basic and .Net framework 2.0 • Experience of working as part of a development team Any understanding of project management methods and web interface design would be an advantage. For an informal discussion please contact, Rob Neil. For an application form and further details please contact Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford Kent or e-mail us. Interviews will be held on: 27th August 2008.
To apply/more information:
Rob Neil
Ashford Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 330850
Email recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

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Legal

CRIME/DUTY SOLICITOR

Sheerness
Salary: TBC
Required for North Kent firm with 2 offices & LSC contract. Please send your CV to Mrs J H Steadman, Christopher Harris & Co., 20 West Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1AB. www.christopher-harris.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Mrs J H Steadman
Christopher Harris & Company
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: (01795) 437268
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

P/T Development Manager (3 days pw)

Ashford
Salary: c £19,000 (Pro rata)
Closing Date: Friday 8th August
• Home-based - covering Ashford, Canterbury & surrounding districts, flexible hours, own transport required - mileage reimbursed • Fantastic opportunity to work for a progressive charity with a strong belief in work/life balance • To develop and manage YE business enterprise programmes in schools, to find, train & support business volunteers • Must be self-motivated team player, sales and organisational experience essential. For a detailed job description or to apply please email CV and covering letter. Successful applicants will be required to undergo a CRB check www.young-enterprise.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Young Enterprise South East
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email hr@yese.org.uk

Production Manager

Gillingham
Salary: tba
Due to an increasing order book, we are loking for the above. For tool room & small batch quality work.
To apply/more information:
Ray Baigent
Aerospace Tooling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 233216
Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Store Management

Kent
Salary: Up to £36,000pa
Required throughout the South East of England. For our store management team we offer a structured training programme where you will start by learning from and working with experienced managers. We'll give you responsibility from day one and help you expand your commercial know-how, people development and leadership skills. Good managers are the engines behind our stores and with our guidance and your enthusiasm we will make you a success. As a Store Manager you will be expected to be a motivator and have a practical hands on approach to store operations. You will achieve excellent customer satisfaction and store performance by leading, guiding and managing your team. You will be responsible for maximising the sales within your store along with controlling costs, cash and inventory results. We expect you to be motivated, proactive, have an eye for detail and previous management experience is desirable. You must possess excellent people skills, a leader who can influence and inspire. Above all we are looking for managers that are determined to achieve great results, be successful and are adaptable to change. The Rewards • A market leading salary of up to £36,000pa • Exclusive benefits package and pension scheme • Opportunities to move into other management positions Interested? Written replies should include a CV and a covering letter detailing leadership potential. Please quote reference. Applications to: SM Recruitment, Lidl Ltd, Recruitment Department, 19 Worple Road, Wimbledon London, SW19 4JS or email us.
To apply/more information:
Lidl Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: 26373
Email recruitment@lidl.co.uk

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SUPPORTED HOUSING TEAM LEADER

Folkestone
Salary: £29,544 to £34,899 plus Essential User Car Allowance
Closing Date: Friday 1 August 2008
Shepway Housing Services are making changes to the way services are delivered to our tenants in Supported Housing and the wider community. As a result an exciting opportunity has arisen for the newly created post of Supported Housing Team Leader. We are seeking an exceptional and innovative person to lead our team of 12 Supported Housing Officers. Applicants will have sound knowledge of the Supporting People Framework, Supported Housing and working with older people. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years in a role that demonstrates the ability to motivate and lead members of a dispersed workforce, encouraging their staff to work on their own initiative and as part of the team. A sound, in depth knowledge of both statutory, voluntary agencies and partnership working will also be required. You must be passionate about providing a service that makes a difference to the lives of our service users; be a confident communicator, with an enthusiastic, proactive, energetic approach plus a car owner / driver. You will also have a good working knowledge of Control Centres, Telecare and their applications. The successful applicant will be required to undergo both an enhanced CRB and Airwaves check. Supported Housing provides a 24 hour, 365 days a year service therefore flexibility and willingness to work other than office hours on occasions is essential. For an informal discussion about this post contact Shelley Squance on 01303 853186 or Angela Vince on 01303 853184. Applications details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk or email: jobs@shepway.gov.uk or call our 24 hour answer phone service on 01303 853481 CVs are not accepted.
To apply/more information:
Shelley Squance
Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853186
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Cleaner

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Driver

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
For local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Estimator

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Painters

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair centre. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Panel Beater

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Prepper

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Stripper/Fitter

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Required for local accident repair business. Apply by CV or call for interview.
To apply/more information:
Paul Goddard/Gary Gregory
Ransoms Motors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 842513
Email
info@ransomsmotors.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Army Preparation Programme)

Chatham
Salary: £17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)
We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16 - 18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable. This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check. Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Maternity Cover)

Chatham
Salary: £17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)
We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16 - 18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable. This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

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SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Kent
Salary: £21,984 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)
Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key stage 4 Engagement Programme (50/50) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices. We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs. Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

SWITCH ON PROJECT MANAGER

Kent
Salary: £24,535 per annum
Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a project for 14-16 year olds across Kent and Medway and Sussex. The project (called Switch On) aims to assist young people's transition into employment and training. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-16 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post will be based in either Kent and Medway or the Brighton area, is dependent on ESF funding and is currently until 2010. Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check. Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

TIE PROJECT MANAGER

Kent
Salary: £24,535 per annum
Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a personal development and employability project (called TIE) across Kent and Medway and Surrey to 14-19 years olds. The post will be based in Kent and Medway, but will require the post-holder to travel to Surrey on a regular basis. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-19 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post is dependent of ESF funding and is currently until 2010. Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check. Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

TRAINER (Schools Programmes)

Chatham
Salary: £17,658 to £19,658 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)
We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme and have an interest in teaching a variety of subjects to young people. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage. This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check. Please contact Hayley Arms for an application pack.
To apply/more information:
Hayley Arms
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Community Carers and Domestic Carers

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Due to an expanding service, we require Community Carers & Domestic Carers to join our team in Folkestone/ Hythe & Surrounding Villages. Experience preferred but not essential as all training is provided. • Must have own transport • Be flexible with working hours. • Work alternate weekends All posts are subject to enhanced disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Alison George
Brampton Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 272348
Email applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

Deputy Manager

Dartford
Salary: tba
Charing Healthcare has a rare opportunity DEPUTY MANAGER…. RESIDENTIAL DEPUTY MANAGER (RGN)…. NURSING If you are a caring, professional person with stamina and drive then phone 0797175056330861.
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07971750563
Email janet@
charinghealthcare.co.uk

Foster Carers Required

Kent
Salary: TBA
We are currently seeking carers with experience of or an interest in caring for: Teenagers/13+ age range, Siblings groups, Children with high needs in relation to physical disabilities, Children with autistic spectrum disorders, young people seeking asylum in this country, young people remanded to the care of their local authority, a young person, who is a parent of about to be come a parent.
You must: Have children no younger than 8 years old living at home, have a supportive network of family and friends, be over 25 single or a couple, have at leave one spare bedroom, be prepared to attend monthly comprehensive training, be able to work to high standards with a diverse group of young people. We offer: a stakeholder pension, three weeks paid respite, a comprehensive training and development programme, 24 hour support from an experienced and child focused team, a professional fee of up to £420.00 per week for each child, golden hello and annual retention payments, activity and holiday allowances.
To apply/more information:
Fostercare UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 800 1941
Email
enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

New or experienced community carers

Kent
Salary: Excellent Rates of Pay Thanet, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Swale, Dover, Deal & Folkestone • Excellent Rates of Pay • Free Training • Free Uniform • Flexible Working Hours MUST BE CAR DRIVERS.
To apply/more information:
All Seasons Care Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 265 899 option 3
Email info@allseasons.org.uk

Receptionist

Gravesend
Salary: £6-50 per hour
Closing Date: 28th July 2008
Receptionist Required for busy two site GP Surgery on outskirts of Gravesend. Applicants must be able to work a rolling shift pattern of four hour shifts between the hours of 0800 and 1830 and occasional evening and Saturday work. Experience preferred but not essential as training available to right candidate. All usual reception and general clerical duties covered. Flexibility essential to cover holidays etc. Application by CV to Keith Fuller, Practice Manager, Downs Way Medical Practice, Worcester Close, Istead Rise, GRAVESEND, Kent DA13 9LB.
To apply/more information:
Keith Fuller
Downs Way Medical Practice
Quoting Job Ref: Recept July 2008
Tel: 0844 815 1333
Email kfuller@nhs.net

Support Workers Supported Living (2 posts)

Maidstone
Salary: £15,760-£16,603 (pay award pending)
Closing Date: 21st July 2008
37 hrs per week, Interview date 6th August 2008.
For an informal discussion contact Bill Wood on 07858 757288. For further information visit or to apply on line visit www.mcch.co.uk. For application forms and job descriptions call our recruitment line on 0845 370 3037. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
Bill Wood
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 363/KOS
Tel: 07858 757288
Email applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

Other

DISPOSAL OPERATOR

Ashford
Salary: £5.75 per hour, WASTE OPERATIVES Required DISPOSAL OPERATOR Temp to Perm Our client requires additional operators for their busy incinerator site in Ashford. The role involves manual handling trade size wheelie bins whilst scanning them, weighing them before loading them on to the lift for disposal into the hopper. The starting pay rate is a minimum £5.75 per hour, night rates and weekend premiums payable with this increasing once permanent.
To apply/more information:
Leigh Cripps
Red Eagle Recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 851133
Email applications@
jobsforkent.co.uk

FACTORY OPERATIVES

Kent
Salary: Pay rates from £5.52 p/h - £6.02 Monday - Friday Due to an increase in demand, we require additional FACTORY OPERATIVES for our client near Dover. Shifts Available: 7am - 4pm, 4pm - 11pm, 4pm - 12pm, 11pm - 7am Pay rates from £5.52 p/h - £6.02 Monday-Friday Regular shifts and weekend work available. Must have own transport For more information and to register with Red Eagle please call Leigh on 01303 851133 or visit our offices at 38 Bouverie Square, Folkestone. PRACA W FABRYCE Potrzebny Wlasny Transport Wymagany Dobry Angielski Prosze Pytac O Leigh Pool Numerem 01303 851133 Reikalingi dabuotojai dirbti fagrike Aplikantai privlo kalbeti angliskai ir tureti savo transporta. Jei sudomino sis skelbimas Prasom skambinti ly telefonu 01303 851133.
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Leigh
Red Eagle Recruitment
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 851133
Email 01303 851133

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To advertise in this section or online
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Public Sector, Social Services

Anti-Bullying Case Worker

Kent
Salary: Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 per annum Term-time only, initially funded for 12 months
Closing Date: Midday, 12th August 2008.
Working closely with parents/carers, other professionals and schools where open dialogue has become difficult with a view to resolving bullying issues, you will offer support to young people to reduce incidents of bullying which will involve working one-to-one and/or in small groups. The work will also involve going into the schools to participate in reintegration, follow-up and preventative activities. You will be full of ideas and enjoy using your initiative, joining our dedicated and highly effective staff team. To succeed, you will work together with a wide range of agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the parents and young people are met. So if you have the experience and commitment to working with young people we would love to hear from you. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref:
CFE/08/0330
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email
recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

CCTV Operator

Gravesend
Salary: Salary: Circa £13,000 - £14,500
Closing Date: 4 August 2008
An exciting opportunity has arisen within our CCTV team who's function is to provide high quality CCTV services within the borough of Gravesham. You will contribute to the achievement of CCTV team objectives which include deterring and detecting crime, increasing personal safety, reducing fear of crime and protecting private and public property. Often working in pressurised situations you are quick thinking and articulate, with good communication skills. You will also have the ability to work alone or part of a team. Appropriate experience of working in a CCTV control room or previous security surveillance experience is desirable although not essential as training will be provided to the right candidate. You will be required to work within an established shift system which includes unsocial hours and weekend working. Appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a Criminal Records Bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: CCTV/MW
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@
gravesham.gov.uk

Consumer Direct Advisors

Maidstone
Salary: Starting salary £15,826, with progression through contribution related pay to £16,627 per annum
Closing Date: Midday, 13th August 2008.
The service, hosted by Kent County Council and funded by the Office of Fair Trading, is delivered from our state-of-the art Contact Centre in central Maidstone. Offering consumers across the South East of England telephone-based advice on their rights and guidance on resolving consumer problems, you will be liaising with Trading Standards professionals and other agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by an ability to analyse the circumstances around the complaint and offer the appropriate course of action to the consumer in an accurate and easily understandable manner. The busy nature of this service requires you to balance the need to provide appropriate advice whilst maintaining an awareness of call handling targets. You'll be PC literate and combine proven competence in a customer-focused role with a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills. Although some kind of legal experience would

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be helpful, you will be provided with in-depth training. Working hours are subject to a shift pattern that will include some weekend work. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
To apply/more information: Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CMY/08/0176
Tel: 0845 8247 904.
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKER (YOS)
Folkestone
Salary: SCP 26 - 31 £21,412 - £25,320 (pay award pending) + Essential Car User Allowance
Closing Date: 25th July 2008
COVERING DOVER, FOLKESTONE & ASHFORD KCA Young Persons' Service delivers specialist, young person-centred drug and alcohol services to those aged 10 - 17. It provides advice, information, support and prevention initiatives, ongoing casework and intensive interventions. We have been commissioned since 2005 to provide substance misuse services to the Kent Youth Offending Service. This post will cover the Dover, Folkestone and Ashford areas, offering assessment and ongoing casework to young offenders referred by the Young Offender Teams in those areas. We are looking for an outgoing, self-motivated, committed person with a good knowledge of drug/alcohol issues, who can demonstrate the ability to work creatively and effectively with young offenders. Previous experience of working with young offenders is essential. Previous applicants need not apply. For application forms and further information, contact: KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone or email. www.kca.org.uk.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 483
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

DAY PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR
Margate
Salary: SCP 29-35 £23,749 - £28,172 (pay award pending)
Closing Date: Friday 25th July 2008 at midday
You will work in close collaboration with the Service Manager to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Day Programme service within the locality. You will support the Service Manager in providing a structured Day Programme to DRR and voluntary service users, ensuring that the Day Programme fully meets contractual requirements. Responsibilities include the planning and delivery of group activities and line management of staff.
You will help to ensure that the Day Programme is fully integrated with other local and organisation-wide services and will work closely with partner agencies within an agreed strategic framework. You should be committed to the principles and practice of equality of opportunity for service users and staff. You should have comprehensive experience within the drug & alcohol field, coupled with sound organisational skills, including the ability to plan and prioritise your own workload. You should have experience of working within a groupwork setting and be qualified to diploma level or hold a professional qualification within a relevant field. For an application form contact: KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, or email. Interview date: Friday 1st August 2008. If you would like to discuss this post further please call.
To apply/more information: Linda Ranger
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 497
Tel: 01227 781 297
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Estate Services Coordinator
Gravesend
Salary: Salary: Package up to Circa £27,000
Closing Date: 4 August 2008
This is an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to further develop caretaking services provided to residents across the borough. Tenants regularly inform us that a good caretaking service is one of their main priorities and this role is therefore a key one within the department. Reporting to the Tenancy Services Manager, you will manage, and lead our caretaking service and build on your previous caretaking management experience ensuring innovation and best practice are core to the delivery of the caretaking service.
To apply/more information: Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: ESC/MB
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Foster carers wanted
Ashford
Salary: excellent rates of pay. The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.
To apply/more information: Jamie Bromfield
Caldecott Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 815648
Email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk

Network Manager
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: Starting salary £35,370, with progression through contribution related pay to £40,705 per annum
Closing Date: Midday, 30th July 2008.
In the context of promoting the Government's Early Years Agenda, Every Child Matters and The Children's Plan, Ashford local Children's Services Partnership offers an exciting opportunity across Ashford for a range of skilled, creative and committed people to join in the development of Children's Centres and Programmes to provide a comprehensive range of services for children under 5 and their families. Children's Centres bring together a range of services for children under 5 and their families in a friendly environment. Children's Centres are being developed across Kent as part of the Government's commitment to provide the best start in life for every child, support for parents, good quality childcare and safer, stronger communities. This post will involve managing teams of staff developing a range of projects and services, which will implement the principles and core offer to be delivered within the Children's Centre. You will need to work alongside staff from a range of backgrounds and professions and lead effective multi-agency working. Experience of working within local communities is vital, as local children and families are key partners in the development of their Children's Centre. You will have a degree or equivalent professional qualification in health, social work, education, community work or a similar field. Experience of working with children, families and communities as well as project management is essential. Team management and good interpersonal and communication skills is also a must for this exciting role. Owing to the sensitive nature of the work, an ability to remain confidential at all times is essential This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.
To apply/more information: Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/08/0321.
Tel: 0845 8247 904.
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Tenant Participation Worker
Gravesend
Salary: Salary: Circa £17,000 - £21,000m
Closing Date: 4 August 2008
We have an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to encourage and facilitate the involvement of residents across the borough to join our Tenant Participation Team. In accordance with the Council's resident involvement strategy you will develop and support a range of tenant participation initiatives and promote and develop effective partnerships between residents, members and staff. You will have proven experience in tenant participation, resident involvement, community development or social housing; excellent written and verbal communication skills and an innovative approach to problem solving. You will be required to undertake data analysis therefore IT literacy is essential. Applicants will be required to attend a short skills assessment as part of the selection process.
To apply/more information: Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: TPW/EM
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Home Improvement Direct Sales
Maidstone
Salary: £50 to £75k PA.
Have you several years experience as a fully trained & successful home improvement direct sales person? Then you need to call us now as we suspect you may be disillusioned by false promises. Subject to a proven track record you could join an established "Trust Mark Company" within a niche industry that generates genuine quality enquiries from an ongoing marketing programme.n
To apply/more information: Envirotech Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 812840.
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PARTS ADVISOR
Ashford
Salary: tba
Closing Date: 25th July 2008
Required to join a strong team at this successful branch. The successful candidate will have: • Skills gained from a similar role in the industry; • A proven track record in delivering profitability and customer service; • Excellent interpersonal skills; • Basic computer skills. Caffyns plc offers a competitive remuneration package as well as the usual benefits associated with a plc.
To apply/more information: Teresa Medd-Sygrove
Caffyns of Ashford
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 504604
Email jayne.gilbert@caffyns.co.uk

Sales Executive
Ashford
Salary: tba
We are looking for highly successful sales executives with motor industry experience to join us at our Honda sites in Maidstone and Ashford. These challenging and rewarding roles will provide an opportunity for you to join a company that develops and recognises achievement. The ideal candidates will be self motivated, have excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills and be keen to progress in their career. If you want to be part of our success, can demonstrate drive and enthusiasm, then maybe one of these roles is for you. Visit our website www.drakeandfletcher.co.uk for further information on these roles. Please either apply via our website or send your CV with a covering letter to: Jo Murray, HR Manager, Drake & Fletcher, Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3DS.
To apply/more information: Drake & Fletcher
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

BUS DRIVER
Gravesend
Salary: £13,959 to £15,826 per annum pro-rata
Closing Date: 28 July 2008
BUS DRIVER 20 hours per week term-time only New Kent Scheme Grade 3 – Points 7 to 11 (£13,959 to £15,826 per annum pro-rata) We have a vacancy for a part-time Driver.The successful candidate will be responsible for transporting pupils to and from the school at the beginning and end of the day and for overseeing the school vehicles.There will also be opportunities to assist with maintenance and caretaking duties. The successful candidate will need to be flexible and self-motivated, have good communication skills and a valid mini-bus licence. For a job description and application form please contact the headteacher, Mrs Pam Jones. Website: www.ifieldschool.com E-mail: ifieldschool@aol.com Appointment to this position will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check. Ifield Special School, Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT Telephone: 01474 365485.
To apply/more information: Pam Jones.
Ifield District Special School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email ifieldschool@aol.com

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Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) (No. 2) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the route described in Column 1 of the Schedule One hereto and impose a One Way Street on the road described in Column 1 in the direction described in Column 2 of the Schedule Two hereto from 4 August 2008 until 24 October 2008 (12 weeks) or until such works are complete, at such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs. The alternative route for the route described in Column 1 of Schedule One hereto is described in Column 2 of that Schedule.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary as part of Ashford regeneration project currently underway. For further information please contact Mr Peter Hoyland of Kent Highway Services on 07943 838095.

Schedule One
(Temporary Prohibition of Driving)

Column 1 The Affected Route	Column 2 The Alternative Route
West Street, Ashford Between its junction with Regents Place/Norwood Gardens and its junction with Elwick Road	Residential access maintained on West Street. All other traffic diverted through Regents Place and Apsley Street
Godinton Road, Ashford Between its junction with West Street and its junction with Apsley Street	Regents Place and Apsley Street

Schedule Two
(Temporary One Way Street)

Column 1 Road or length of road	Column 2 Direction to proceed
Apsley Street, Ashford From the road narrowing by the car park entrance to its junction with Elwick Road	North-East to South-West

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN HOTHFIELD) (ROAD CLOSURE)TEMPORARY ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that to allow highway works to take place the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 24th July 2008 for an estimated period of three days or for a period not exceeding 18 months.

The alternative for each route described in column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in column 2 of that Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE

Waterfall Road, Hothfield. From Its junction with Godinton Lane to Its junction with Coach Drive.	Godinton Lane, A20 Maidstone Road, Station Road , School Road The Street and Park Drive.
West Street, Hothfield. From Its junction with The Street to Its junction with Ram Lane.	Little Chart Road, Swan Lane, Surrenden Road, Pluckley Road, Bethersden Road and The Street.
The Street, Hothfield. From Its junction with The Street to Its junction with Church Lane.	West Street, Little Chart Road, Swan Lane, Surrenden Road, Pluckley Road and Bethersden Road.

Advance road works information boards will be placed prior to works commencing on site, giving details as to when works are scheduled to commence and expected duration. Each closure is not expected to last know more that one day, and will be carried out over three phases.

Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(COCKERING ROAD, CHARTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway patching works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Cockering Road, Chartham from its junction with Rattington Street to its junction with Milton Manor Road on or after 4 August 2008 for an estimated period of 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Ashford Road and Shalmsford Street and The Crescent.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ST ALPHEGE LANE, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new electrial supply and footway repairs works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on St Alphege Lane, Canterbury from its junction with King Street to its junction with Palace Street on or after 4 August 2008 for an estimated period of two weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Palace Street, Orange Street and King Street

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LISMORE ROAD, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway patching works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Lismore Road, Whitstable from its junction with Rayham Road to its junction with Grasmere Road on or after 7 August 2008 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Grasmere Road and Virginia Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new sewer overflow pipe works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads Canterbury, as desribed in column 1 of schedule to this order on or after 28 July 2008 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this order is desribed in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Fordwich Road, Fordwich.	Closed in a northerly direction only between its junction with Water Lane and Mill road.	Water Lane, Mill Road, Sturry Road and Vauxhall Road roundabout.	28 July 2008 for 2-3 Weeks
Phase 2			
Fordwich Road, Fordwich.	Closed in both directions between its junction with Water Lane and Mill Road.	Water Lane, Mill Road, Sturry Road and Vauxhall Road roundabout.	11 August 2008 for 1 week.
Phase 3			
Fordwich Road, Fordwich	Closed in both directions between its junction with Water Lane and the northern boundary of 4 Fordwich Road.	Mill Road, Sturry Road, Tourtel Road, Military Road, Broad Street, Lower Bridge Street, Lower Chantry Lane, Longport, St Martins Hill, Littlebourne Road, Stodmarsh Road, Moat Lane, High Street and King Street. Note. HGV access to Fordwich Road will be alternative conditions.	18 August for 2-3 Weeks.

This Order will come into force on 28 July 2008, and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months or until the works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
CRAYLANDS LANE, SWANSCOMBE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Craylands Lane, Swanscombe from its junction with A226 London Road for a distance of 30 metres.

The Order will become effective on 22nd July 2008, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for six weeks and commence within the next four weeks. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Knockhall Road and Alkerden Lane OR High Street and Milton Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the installation of a new Water Main.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOWER GORE LANE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Bus Stop Improvements works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Lower Gore Lane from Woodnesborough Lane to Gore Road on or after 04 August 2008 for an estimated period of two weeks 08.00 to 17.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Gore Road and Woodnesborough Lane.

This order will come into force on Monday 4 August 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A258 DOVER ROAD, RINGWOULD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Resurfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on A258 Dover Road, Ringwould from From a point 70m SW of Ringwould Road to a point 70m NE of Ringwould Road on or after 4 August 2008 for an estimated period of three nights 19.00hrs to 0200hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as descrbed in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

Specified Road	Alternative Route
A258 Dover Road, Ringwould Road from a point 70m SW of Ringwould Road to a point 70m NE of Ringwould Road	1. A258 Dover Road, The Strand, Victoria Road, Ranelagh Road, Prince of Wales Terrace, Beach Street, Broad Street, Queen Street, A258 London Road, A258 Hacklinge Hill, A258 Deal Road, A256 Sandwich Road, A256 Dover Road, A2, and A258 Dover Road
	2. Sub diversion Ringwould Road, The Rise, Chalkhill Road, Upper Street, Cliffe Road, Kingsdown Road, Granville Road and A258 Dover Road

This order will come into force on Monday 4 August 2008, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A257 CANTERBURY ROAD, WINGHAM GREEN)(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Resurfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham Green from a point 70m SW of Mill Road to a point 400m NE of Mill Road on or after 04 August 2008 for an estimated period of three nights 19.00hrs to 02.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A257 Canterbury Road, A257 Littlebourne Road, A257 St Martins Hill, A257 Longport, A257 Lower Chantry Lane, A2050 New Dover Road, A2 Dover Road, A260 Old Dover Road, B2046 Adisham Road, A257 Canterbury Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DURHAM HILL, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because crane lifting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Durham Hill, Dover from its junction with Lancaster Road to its junction with Durham Close on or after 21 July 2008 for an estimated period of 10 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Lancaster Road, Military Road and Durham Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BUNKERS HILL, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because replacement gas mains works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Bunkers Hill, Dover from its junction with Oswald Road to its junction with London Road on or after 21 July 2008 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Hillside Road, Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road and Crabble Hill.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EAST KENT AVENUE (ONE WAY ORDER) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling from South Kent Avenue to Council Avenue on East Kent Avenue, Northfleet.

The Order will become effective on 4th August 2008, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last for between 5 and 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: North Kent Avenue and West Kent Avenue.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of a Gas Main.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (B260 LONGFIELD ROAD, MEOPHAM) (ZEBRA CROSSING) ORDER 2008

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a pedestrian crossing of the type described in column 1 of Schedule 1hereto, at the location described in column 2 of the said schedule.

A plan showing the location of the proposed pedestrian crossing may be inspected during normal working hours at Joynes House, New Road Gravesend during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays until 18th August 2008

SCHEDULE 1

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
1. Zebra	1. Longfield Road, Meopham, outside Meopham County Primary School

For further information, please contact Geoff Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HEATH ROAD, LINTON/ BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Heath Road, Linton/ Boughton Monchelsea between the A229 Linton Crossroads and the junction of Loddington Lane on or after Thursday 24th July 2008 at times when required for a period of up to 6 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for Eastbound traffic via the A229 Linton Road, Loose Road, A274 Sutton Road, B2163 Plough Wents Road and for westbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install a new water main. Should you require any further information these works, please contact Sean Routen on 01634 873052.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BICKNOR LANE, BICKNOR) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bicknor Lane, Bicknor between Placketts Hole and Bicknor Farm, when required on or after Monday 21st July 2008 for a period of up to 2 Weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Bicknor Lane, Deans Hill Road, Kennel Barn Road and South Green Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

Ringways Infrastructure Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works which are necessary for drainage works. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Brian Williams on 01622 887774.

Highways - Borough of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(KETTLE HILL ROAD, FAVERSHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kettle Hill Road, Faversham at Pinks Farm. This Order will commence on Monday 4th August for a period of 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for Kettle Hill Road is via Otterden Road & Kettle Hill Road.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay a new BT duct. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Kenton Stewart of McNicholas Construction on 01795 437805.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HEAD HILL ROAD, GRAVENEY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because duct Installation works for EDF cables are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Head Hill Road, Graveney from its junction with Whitstable Road to Poplar Hall Farm on or after 28 July 2008 for an estimated period of 10 nights for night-time closures only or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be Northbound via Whitstable Road, Thanet Way, High Street Road, Monks Hall Road and Seasalter Road.

Southbound via Monks Hill Road, High Street Road, A2990 overbridge, Plum Pudding Lane, A2990 Thanet Way, Staple Street and Staple Street Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas maims replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various roads, Ramsgate from as desribed in column 1 of schedule to this order on or after 24 July 2008 for an estimated period of five weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each road descibed in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes
Newington Road, Ramsgate	From its junction with High Street St Lawrence to its junction with Manston Road	High Street St Lawrence, Nethercourt Hill, Canterbury Road East, A256 Lord of Manor Roundabout, Haine Road & Manston Road.
Manston Road, Ramsgate	From its junction with Newington Road to outside 56 Manston Road.	Newington Road, High Street St Lawrence, Nethercourt Hill, Canterbury Road East, A256 Lord of Manor Roundabout, Haine Road & Manston Road.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Beltring road between its junction with Branbridges Road and the Blue Bell Inn.

The Order will become effective on 4th August 2008, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take between 2-7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Maidstone Road, Hampstead Lane, Lees Road and Gravelly Ways.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the laying of high friction surfacing and removal of vegetation

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GROOMBRIDGE ROAD & BIRD IN HAND STREET) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Groombridge Road and Bird In Hand Street on or after Monday 21st July 2008 for an estimated period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via A264 Ashurst Road, B2110 Groombridge Hill and for northbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for water main reinforcement to Langton Green Reservoir. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contact is Scott Francis of Black & Veatch on 01444 445 005.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
A25 SEVENOAKS ROAD, BOROUGH GREEN (10MPH CONVOY WORKING) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 10mph and the implementation of convoy working between A227 Borough Green Road Roundabout with Ightham bypass and A227 Western Road.

The Order will become effective on 4th August 2008, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take place on a Sunday in the following four weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

There is no requirement for an alternative route for the route described above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the laying of high friction surfacing and carriageway markings.

For further information, please contact Geoff Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

The Insolvency Act 1986
SIETE LIMITED
Company Number 04961396

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of Siete Limited will be held at 1 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5AA, on 1 August 2008, at 11.45 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, during business hours on 30th and 31st days of July 2008, at the offices of BN Jackson Norton, 2nd Floor, Davis House, 69-77 High Street, Croydon, CR0 1QE.

The Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include Resolutions specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated and reimbursed in respect of his disbursements. Further, the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. To assist Creditors in making an informed decision, a copy of the Creditors' Guide to Liquidators' Fees as detailed in The Association of Business Recovery Professionals (formerly the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency), Statement of Insolvency Practice No. 9, is available at www.bnjacksonorton.com.

Dated 14 July 2008
By Order of the Board
C E Allport, Director

E A CASTLE & SON LIMITED
Company Number 00466020

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the Company will be held at the offices of Moore Stephens LLP, 1st Floor, Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on Thursday 31 July 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting.

For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.

Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

Dated 4 July 2008
Helen Burn, Director

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Iconic supercar has acquired a greener sheen

By **STEVE LOADER**

TIMES are tough in the supercar market.

A climate of soaring fuel prices and road tax and looming economic turmoil, is inclined to make even well-heeled buyers think again about splashing their cash on a dream motor.

You won't find Porsche waiting for the storm to hit though; having been nearly scuppered the last time the world went into recession, the supercar marque came back stronger and seemingly vowed never to be caught again.

As a result, the 911 range – a motoring dynasty founded in 1963 – has been extensively re-worked to take account of the new economic situation.

The new version, out now, has even been especially modified for the UK market to beat our stringent emissions-linked road tax system; aluminium doors have been fitted to save weight and shave more off the g/km of CO2 figure.

Porsche describes the new look car as the "synthesis of sportiness, superior everyday versatility, all-round economy and genuine environmental compatibility".

If that sounds optimistic, check the detail: all-new 3.6 and 3.8-litre flat-six engines with DFI (direct fuel injection) for more efficient combustion and the option of Porsche's new seven-speed PDK – I won't bother with the translation from the German – race car-style sequential double-clutch transmission.

These developments bring apparently contradictory benefits: more power – up 20bhp to 345bhp and 30bhp to 385bhp respectively – and lower emissions.

With a six-speed manual gearbox or the PDK 'box, the new 3.6-litre Carrera Coupé returns 29.4mpg on the official combined figures – against 25.7 previously while CO2 emissions are down 15 per cent to 225 g/km.

The new emissions figure takes this 911 version out of the top £400/year road tax band and into Band F (£210/year) and cuts company car taxation costs.

Both engines – six kilos lighter than before – also outperform stringent EU5 emissions regulations that do not come into force until October, 2009.

Porsche Tonbridge general sales manager Stephen Lay said: "The new PDK gearbox is phenomenal and, coupled with the 225 emissions figure, puts the 911 leagues ahead of the opposition, especially in the UK where it gets extra weight saving from the aluminium doors – something Continental markets are not enjoying."

He agreed that times were tough at this rarefied end of the market, but added: "You cannot give up on an icon like the 911. It always will be the halo car for the brand."

The new look 911 range is priced from £63,070 for the Carrera 3.6-litre – Cabriolet versions start at £70,360.

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INSIDE

Attivo special for the Colt Page 50

Mazda's roaring RX-8 R3 Page 51

Honda's classy Accord Pages 56-57

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†Finance example; Manufacturers list price £10,830. Less Associate Partners discount (subject to qualification*) and G.M Cardfast Start bonuses of £1200 = £9630. Minimum trade in or cash deposit equivilant of £1000 (where applicable) = £8630. Less Vauxhall finance deposit allowance of £1000 = £7630. Payable by 1 x payment of £294.04 inc admin fee. Then 33 monthly payments of **£165.04** followed by one of £294.04 inc option to purchase fee and then one final optional payment of £3633 or return the vehicle under terms and conditions, based on 10,000 miles per annum use. Total amount payable £11,667.40.

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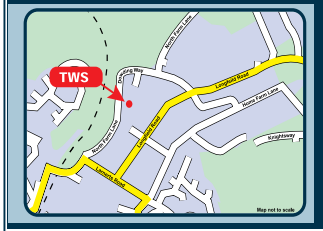

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Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 31.0 (9.1) to 49.6 (5.7), extra urban from 46.3 (6.1) to 68.9 (4.1), combined from 39.8 (7.1) to 60.1 (4.7). CO2 emissions from 124g/km to 171g/km. . SX4 range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 28.8 (9.8) to 44.1 (6.4), extra urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 61.4 (4.6), combined from 37.1 (7.6) to 53.3 (5.3). CO2 emissions from 139g/km to 182g/km. . Grand Vitara range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 23.3 (12.1) to 31.7 (8.9), extra urban from 35.8 (7.9) to 44.1 (6.4), combined from 30.1 (9.4) to 38.7 (7.3). CO2 emissions from 190g/km to 228g/km.

†Finance subject to status (Over 18's only). A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request. All offers subject to availability while stocks last. Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. All offers correct at time of going to press. (*Labour only) 3 years or 60,000 mile warranty, whichever comes first. 3 years 24 hour Roadside Assistance.

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Latest A and B-Class spells foresight by Mercedes-Benz

SOME pundits said Mercedes-Benz cheapened the brand when it launched the original A-Class in 1998, but it looks more like excellent foresight as we face tighter motoring budgets.

A second generation model in 2005 added to the good news; more like a Merc in build, style and quality, there was even a racy three-door variant to rival posh family hatches such as the Audi A3 and BMW 1-Series.

It also gained a big brother, the B-Class, rather strangely defined as a 'Sport Tourer' by M-B though probably more correctly defined as a sporty MPV.

Both those A and B-Class models – now priced from £14,360 and £18,800 – were given a facelift this month to help the three-pointed star weather any downsizing in the UK market that might erode sales of the brand's conventional C and E-Class saloon and estate ranges.

Both revised models look different and M-B has sought to cut emissions well below current EU limits. Petrol versions in both line-ups also get new stop-start technology this autumn, similar to that fitted to the rival BMW 1-Series.

This means the engine will stop and then start automatically at traffic lights or in slow-moving traffic; this should further cut emissions and deliver some nine per cent better fuel economy.

Peugeot carries on developing extra CCs

PEUGEOT continues to polish its modern-day CC (coupé convertible) models and claim credit for inventing folding hard-tops way back in the 1930s.

Though the latter day 307CC, was never the most elegant of such executions, it has been succeeded by the far nicer-looking 308CC due later this year.

The fully-automatic roof needs just 20-seconds to go from closed to open mode or vice versa.

It will also be offered with an interior trimmed entirely with leather for extra luxury and a new 'Airwave' heating system for warming the occupants' shoulders and necks in 'top down' mode. Prices are to be confirmed.

Mitsubishi's lively miser

ALREADY one of the best super-minis for space, durability and value, the Mitsubishi Colt gains a new Attivo special edition aimed specifically at motorists looking to downsize from a bigger car.

It comes with sporty alloys and metallic paint plus competitive finance, and a frugal (51.4mpg combined mode) yet pokey 74bhp 1.1-litre engine that partially justifies its 'Attivo' tag – it means 'energetic' and 'lively' in Italian.

The Attivo is priced at £7,999 for the three-door and £8,499 for the five-door.

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†Typical **7.9% APR** applies to 207 models. Prices may vary at each dealer. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £55 Government First Registration Fee and apply to the 207 Monaco 1.4 8v 3dr with air conditioning and metallic paint. Only available at Robins & Day. ^This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 1st July to 30th September 2008. Offers subject to availability. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Alloy wheels optional extra. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only.

Mazda's mean-looking midlife makeover for RX-8 superstar

FirstDrive

by RICHARDPILTON

Mazda RX-8 R3

AUDI'S TT was an awe-inspiring sight when it hit the market in 1998.

The curves and innovative interior contrasted sharply with everyday Audis, which delivered on quality yet struggled for individuality.

Sadly though, the TT became the fashion accessory of choice for hairdressers and young businessmen and I fear the current second generation car will battle to overcome such damage to the TT image, even if it is no longer a 'VW Golf in a pretty dress'.

Which brings me to another bolt from the blue – the Mazda RX-8.

Launched in 2003, there was similar boldness of design. Mazda's famous Wankel rotary engine technology was retained, but the tired styling of the RX-7 series was junked – thank God – in favour of a futuristic mini supercar that justified a new model designation.

It was confusing, quirky, very 'out there' and altogether stunning.

As with the TT though, time is chipping away at those looks – it isn't long before yesterday's head-turner is tomorrow's invisible wheels.

So Mazda has acted now, breathing new life into an icon. On paper, it is a tweak; the reality is a whole new personality and more attitude and purpose concentrated into a single version – the RX-8 R3, in showrooms from late August.

A slightly soppy smile has given way to an evil grin: new front bumper, nice deep front splitter, two gaping nostrils and very 'aftermarket' looking alloys.

After playing with the ingenious backward-opening rear 'suicide doors' and the easy access they allow to the two back seats, I admired the beautiful half-leather Recaro seats in front.

The RX-8 comes with an array of gadgets as standard too, like a six-CD autochanger, nine-speaker Bose stereo, auto windscreen wipers, cruise control and climate control.

But there is also a funny hand brake and a very busy steering wheel; the fussy interior can be annoying after a while and it looks like Mazda couldn't decide which material to use on the wheel, so it grabbed a bit of everything and hoped for the best.

Overall, it is a comfy place to be though and the 'Bluetooth lady' has a nice English accent rather than the American I expected.

The car's rotary engine whines as though driven by some futuristic technology rather than what is essentially still an internal combustion engine.

It takes some getting used to and you think it lacks power when you first launch it aggressively, before realising that you have another 6,000 revs to get through; it hits 9,000 revs before red-lining – more racing car than sporting coupé on the road.

It is certainly a joy to drive. The combination of new suspension, traction control, limited slip differential and rear-wheel drive and free-revving engine, screams at you to drive it hard and attack corners. There is little body roll and it doesn't seem to kick-up any sort of fuss even in the wet.

With a 0-60mph of 6.4 seconds and a maximum of 146 mph, there is a lot of performance to play with too; this is Porsche Boxster territory, but a price tag of £24,995 means near-Boxster pricing this time round too.

Nevertheless, the car breeds driver confidence, endearing it to those who live to drive rather than drive to live, even if it falls into the highest of the new road tax brackets and struggles to deliver the official combined fuel consumption figure of 24.6mpg.

No wonder the market for such cars is shrinking and even then the RX-8 probably does not have performance enough to own simply as a toy; I don't doubt its capability on the track, but an enthusiast might soon look for something more.

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DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Striking 'Accord' in the executive sector

Honda Accord

BETTER ALL-ROUND: The much-improved Honda Accord is a direct assault on the hugely popular lower-end Audi A4 and BMW 3-Series

THIRD time lucky and Honda appears to have cracked the executive market with its Accord model.

Once pitched as a mainstream family car, it gained ideas above its station during two previous generations, but never quite made it.

In fact, the outgoing version was more retrograde step than leap forward; it looked fresher than the car it replaced, but was hardly a technological or dynamic improvement – at least until the mid-term arrival of Honda's excellent 2.2-litre 'whispering diesel' engine.

Quality

The all-new car cannot be dismissed in the same manner. It not only looks better but feels it in almost every way.

Purists will say it needed a rear-wheel drive chassis to take on German leaders of the compact executive car race, but front-wheel drive has not exactly hindered the rise of the Audi A4.

And this Accord is way up there as a driver's car this time, while the ride quality and cabin refinement is not only far better than before – it was a real weakness on the previous Accord – but also shades the BMW 3-Series and Audi A4, if not the all-round experience of the latest Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

Our Accord test car was a 2.0-litre petrol model in the well-specified yet keenly priced ES GT trim designed to reel in all-important company car 'user choosers'; it was loaned by Drake & Fletcher at Ashford Orbital Park where sales manager Jonathan Tatlock confirmed that ES GT was the best-seller, though pairing it with the 2.2-litre was what most Accord buyers wanted, he said.

Nevertheless, the petrol version says enough to underline Honda's progress towards becoming Japan's equivalent of BMW.

Proof of the pudding comes from market watchers at the CAP and Glass's valuation guides predicting a 4.4 per cent rise in residual values across the new Accord line-up; the

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Honda breathing down necks of Audi and BMW

BOLSTERED by 2003 Accord's success in achieving an up-market image alongside the likes of Volkswagen and Lexus, Honda has moved up a gear with the 2008 Accord

It is aiming squarely at buyers at the lower end of the Audi A4 and BMW 3-Series ranges. Although it looks similar to the previous Accord, it's an entirely new design, with a fresh interior and upgraded engines. Safety technology is more widely available than before and the Accord now feels better to drive.

Although the engines have been upgraded in the Accord, they are carrying a little more weight, so performance, while brisk, never feels startlingly fast. Both 2.0-litre (manual) and 2.2-litre diesel will sprint from 0-62mph in comfortably less than 10 seconds, while the manual 2.4-litre petrol engine will do the job in 7.8 seconds.

The six-speed manual gearshift has a slick action, although it's perhaps disappointing to see that automatic transmissions (on petrol engines only for now) is only a five-speed gearbox when many rivals have switched to more responsive and efficient six-speed autos. A diesel automatic is expected in 2009.

Honda has worked hard to ensure the Accord can hold its own among driving enthusiasts who like the sharp handling characteristics of cars like the BMW 3-Series, Lexus IS and Audi A4.

Lower, wider and with a longer wheelbase than the previous Accord, it feels a more agile performer than before with improved body control, but without sacrificing comfort.

Sports suspension is fitted to all but the base ES model adding even greater composure to its behaviour.

While the Accord might not delight enthusiasts in the same way as a 3-Series, it is still an enjoyable drive and among the best of the front-wheel drive alternatives.

Standard stability control extends to a trailer stability function to reduce the risk of towing-related mishaps.

message being that a voracious used-car market for executive models means more purchase price is recovered and the latest Accord may have broken through into this lucrative sector of the market.

If looks count then much of the hard work is done; the £20,110 ES GT petrol test car looked the part with its generous spec including in-dash six-CD autochanger, half-leather upholstery, 'aero' bodykit and 17-inch alloys – a package designed to make equivalent German models look under-equipped.

Whatever the spec though, overall styling is handsome, muscular and more harmonious than before and the interior much improved, with quality materials throughout except for corner cutting with the centre console plastics.

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The dashboard and steering wheel are toned-down versions of the 'starship' design used on the smaller Civic, but no less functional, although it is a shame the bezels on the speedo and rev counter look like silver plastic rather than alloy or chrome.

Nice touches include a couple of 12v sockets in front and USB link for iPod or MP3 player.

Comfort in the rear is good with a decent rake on the seats compared with some rivals. The seat backs also fold properly flat with a pull on two levers in the boot – though the latter is rather awkwardly shaped.

But the company car park telegraph will be buzzing more about the drive; the new Accord has a chassis at last that lives up to the Japanese marque's free-revving engines and precise gearboxes and the taut and grippy, flat cornering style is not bought at the expense of a crashy and nervous ride.

The Germans will be worried.

DrivingStats

- Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC ES GT £20,110
- Range: £19,260-24,910
- Garage stats: 4.72m by 1.84m four-door saloon
- Powertrain: 1,997cc/154bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed gearbox
- Performance: top speed 133mph and 0-62mph in 9.3 seconds
- How green?: road tax band-E (£170/yr), CO2 emissions/170g per km
- Official fuel figures: combined 39.2mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 65 litres/14.3 gallons.
- Insurance group: 10.
- Warranty: three years/90,000 miles.
- Website: www.honda.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 159, Audi A4, BMW 3-Series, Citroen C5, Ford Mondeo, Jaguar X-Type, Lexus IS, Mazda6, Mercedes C-Class, Peugeot 407, Renault Laguna, Saab 9-3, Skoda Octavia, Subaru Legacy, Toyota Avensis, Vauxhall Insignia, VW Passat and Volvo S60.

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ALFA ROMEO

146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. thic car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer. it has the 2.0l engine which produces 150bhp, along with a 5 speed manual gearbox. a test drive is welcome as well as any inspection. px is available against this car. red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTS, gj57ffv, alarm, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric seats, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, special alloy wheels, split/folding rear seats, sunroof, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, red, 200 miles, £21995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, gj57ffy, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, leather interior, metallic paint, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, red label auto, 2001, blenhiem silver with black leather, 50000 miles, £44950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTX 2.0, gk08orw, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £22995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, S 1.2, gf57gxx, finished in sports blue with black interior, blue, 1000 miles, £6295, caffyns chevrolet t wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 1.6, gj05cyh, finished in silver with interior, silver, 33000 miles, £5895, caffyns chevrolet t wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 2005, 3x3 point rear seat belts, abs, body coloured bumpers, central locking, cloth seat trim, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, front electric windows, immobiliser, pas, passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear wiper, sports seats, steel wheels, silver, 14000 miles, £4295, WJ King Vauxhall, Swanley, 01322 662890 (TRADE)

TACUMA, Sx 1.6, 2005, black, 28097 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) auto, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new mot, ew x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner. metallic green, only £995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

CHARADE, 1.0 SL 5dr Hatchback, a/con alloys electric windows central locking pas, champagne, 11, 000 miles, £3995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATERIA, 08/2008, alloy wheels, twin exhaust, tinted glass, a/con, remote c/locking, electric windows, fog lamps, reverse park sensors & much more!!!, dark red mica, delivery miles, £11,345, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.3 SE Hatchback 5dr Auto, 08/2008, pas remote c/locking electric windows alloy wheels rear parking sensors, black, 1, 000 miles, £10, 145, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, kn57ttj, diesel, silver, 19500 miles, £10995, SMC Ford Gravesend, Gravesend, 0844 5762452 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1.6 LX [AC], 1997, insurance group 7 3 owners, panther black, 81000 miles, £1689, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Ghia, 1997, insurance group 6, 3 owners, central locking, front electric windows, drivers airbag, power steering, alloy wheels, immobiliser, diamond white, 63000 miles, £2000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i [70] 3dr, lv56dtf, driver airbag, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, radio/cassette, cloth upholstery, blue, 6226 miles, £3990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0844 4999792 (TRADE)

MAVERICK, 2.0 XLT 5dr, adjustable steering column/wheel, air con, alloys, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, roof rails, radio/cassette, side airbags, traction control. insurance group: 9, green, 36059 miles, £3990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0844 4999792 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5dr [6], climate controlled air con, tyre pressure monitor, zetec pack, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloys, central locking, climate control. insurance group:77, blue, 11881 miles, £13990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0844 4999792 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, cd player abs driver airbag power steering electric windows, grey, 13306 miles, £16999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

TRANSIT 100 short wheel, semi high top, 88,00 miles, full service history, tax July, MOT 12 months, new tyres & battery, white, radio cassette, £1295 ono 07855608376 (PRIVATE)

HONDA

ACCORD, I-VTEC SE Executive Auto, full leather, remote central locking, alarm, electric windows/mirrors/seats, cd, radio, air con, climate control, twin air bags, cruise control, electric sunroof, colour satnav, alloys, silver, 47400 miles, £5495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CIVIC, EX 2.2, gf06ywl, finished in silver with interior, silver, 36000 miles, £11495, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 i-VTEC SE Sport 5dr, 01/03/2004, cd player abs leather hood cover driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 40239 miles, £8500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

HR-V, 4wd 3dr, 691461, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 15'' alloys, 4x4, blue, 79900 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

STREAM, 2.0i SE Sport, gn02ovt, passenger airbag, alarm, rake/reach adjustable steering column/wheel, driver's seat height adjustment, six speakers, electric sunroof, seven seats seating capacity, driver airbag, front/rear head restraints, remote central door locking, centre rear seat belt, full size spare wheel, radio/cassette, front/rear electric windows, electric/heated mirrors external, front/rear armrest, eternal blue pearl, 66549 miles, £6495.0000, Barretts Honda, Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, 1.6 CDX, 2004, green, 44000 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

AMICA, 1.1 Cdx, 2006, aqua tint, 14000 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

COUPE 2.0, SE Auto, 2003, blue, 32018 miles, £6495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ELANTRA, Td Gsi 2.0, 2002, red, 40000 miles, £3495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

GETZ, 1.1 Gsi 3dr, 2008, various, 0 miles, £5995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

I30, 2.0 CRDi Premium, 2007, continental silver, 4000 miles, £14495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

SANTA, 2006, black, 11000 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, Denver Max Double Cab, bg56lmf, immobiliser, central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, metallic paintwork, air con, due in soon, alloy wheels, 4x4, maroon, 10545 miles, £13000, Van Zone Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 8446528 (TRADE)

TROOPER, CITATION 3.5 V6 LWB, 1999 (t), 99 (t) 4x4 izuzu trooper citation 3.5 v6 lwb auto, 5 door, stunning met green coachwork with contrasting velour trim, service history, new mot, full electric pack, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows 4, electric & folding mirrors, twin air bags, 2 & 4 wheel drive, alloy wheels, cd hi-fi, tow bar and twin electric pack, + much more, never taken off road, stunning condition. only £4995 now only £3995, metalic green, 93000 miles, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, Le 16v Crdi Auto, gf05fvb, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, front fog lamps, remote central locking, alarm, full leather, electric windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, air con, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, silver, 24400 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.0 GS Hatchback 5dr, 05/2005, central locking electric windows pas was £4495 now £4295, silver, 19, 000 miles, £4295, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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RIO, 1.5 CRDi GS Diesel, 2005, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, clear silver, 30255 miles, £6495, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 2.9CRDi LX MPV 5d 2902cc auto, gl03xla, air con, abs braking system, electric windows & mirrors, remote locking, immobilizer, power steering, roof bars, rare diesel, 7 seater. blue metallic, 55500 miles, £6995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, 2.0 XS, 2005, insurance group 10, abs, alarm, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, climate control, cruise control, drivers airbag, electric door mirrors, electric sunroof, folding rear seats, front electric windows, front fog lights, heated door mirrors, heated front seat, height adjustable drivers seat, immobiliser, leather seats, passenger airbag, power steering, radio/cd, rear electric windows, remote central locking, roof rails, side airbags, steering wheel rake adjustment, traction control, trip computer, cherry black, 22600 miles, £10995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Pick Up, 10909054, power steering, 4x4, price is £5, 995 + £1, 049.13 = £7, 044.13 total. road tax is £185 per year on this vehicle, red, 92000 miles, £5995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, TD5 Commercial Automatic, climate control, abs, quick-clear screen, traction control, cd player, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, power steering, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, 4x4, £9995.00 + £1749.13vat = £11, 744.13 total. road tax is £180.00, silver, 88000 miles, £8995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 1998, met green with beige, 91644 miles, £3250, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

SERIES 111, gfv853n, 4x4, new chassis and full rebuild, full soft top, 7 seats, defender front end panels. road tax is £185 per year on this vehicle. green, 0 miles, £6695, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS300, GS 300 SE, 503461, remote alarm, central locking, full leather, electric seats, air bag, abs, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, climate control, electric windows, electric mirrors, 15'' alloys, blue, 130000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, 2.0 Sport 5dr [AC], 26/07/2002, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 62385 miles, £3800, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

5, TS2 D 2.0 110PS 5dr MPV, jan 2006 gl55hyf, two previous keepers, power steering remote central locking, air con, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, cd, twin/side/curtain airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, electricdoor mirrors, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, seven seats, alloy wheels. carbon grey metallic, 15,000 miles, £12, 995, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

626, 1.8i LXi, 1997, insurance group 14, 2 owners, service history, central locking, front electric windows, power steering, air con, immobiliser, platinum silver, 77000 miles, £1489, A 1 Carriages, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MAZDA6, 6 Ts2, lv04mwg, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio, immobiliser, 16'' alloys, grey, 64000 miles, £6499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MX-5, I, 678461, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, cd player, 14'' alloys, metallic green, 68000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 SPORT KOMPRESSOR, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior.full sport pack. lilac/blue, 57, 000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C220 Cdi Elegance SE, gj04vfa, alloy wheels, silver, 64000 miles, £9990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, SE 5dr AUTO, oy51zlo, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air con, cd player, blue, 55000 miles, £3699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

NOTE, 1.4 S 5dr, lv06hze, adjustable steering column/wheel, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric mirrors, electric windows, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags. insurance group:4, silver, 20000 miles, £6494, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

PRIMERA, sport, 2001, met red with black with fleck, 66046 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

X-TRAIL STATION WAGON, cd player, abs, alarm, driver airbag power steering, immobiliser, auto climate control, electric windows, red, 61923 miles, £9999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

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PEUGEOT 106 ZEST, 2001, silver, 3 door, 43,000 miles, excellent condition, 12 month M.O.T, 3 month tax, radio-cd Player, electric windows, power steering, very economical, £2,200. 07717603163 (PRIVATE)

106, INDEPENDANCE, 2000, green with black, 43968 miles, £2195, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £29950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

911 TURBO, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 3.4 S 2dr, 3.4 s 2dr coupe, 26000 miles, £33995, Wilmoths Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

ROVER

200, 216 CABRIOLET, 1997, grey, 0 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

25 TURBO DIESEL, year 2000 W reg, two owners from new, 102k, service history, air conditioning, PAS & electric windows, good condition, radio cassette, metallic green, tax December, MOT Feb 09 £950 07828157321 (PRIVATE)

400, 2.0 16v Si Hatchback 5d 1994cc, t 1999, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, srs airbag, radio cassette, air con, 5 speed gearbox. met red, £1995, Westbrook Cars, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

800, 1996 "n", a 1 owner with full service history, in excellent condition for the year. drivern carefully you will even get in excess of 30 miles to the gallon. come and test drivegold, £695, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

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9-3, Linear TID 1.9, oct 2004 gf54wdc, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air con, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, seat height adjuster, alloys. silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9000, 2.3 CDE Saloon 4d 2290cc auto, n, very rare auto saab 9000 griffin.very fast car very clean.immaculate for year, green, 100k miles, £1199.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

SMART

SMART, 0.6 Pulse Hatchback 3d 599cc Semi-Automatic (2002), 04, tripronic 6 speed.fun and cheap car:s/history, cd player, e/windows etc, black, 37,000 miles, £4444.00, Bob Fisher Garage, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

SMART, 0.6 Pulse Hatchback 3d 599cc Semi-Automatic (2002), 04, tripronic 6 speed.fun and cheap car:s/history, cd player, e/windows etc, black, 37, 000 miles, £4444.00, Bob Fisher Garage, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

AVENSIS, GS 5dr, v956dcd, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, electric windows, air con, sunroof, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, head restraints, immobiliser, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, blue, 65000 miles, £2599, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AYGO, 2005, abs, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, full size spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, pas passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear headrests, rear wiper, remote central locking, side airbags, steel wheels, steering wheel rake adjustment, grey, 25541 miles, £5495, WJ King Vauxhall, Rochester, 01634 723723 (TRADE)

CELICA, Vvti, 2006, red, 20000 miles, £10495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

HI ACE, 2004, alarm system anti theft protection bulkhead central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment power steering radio rear window heated revolution counter side loading door third brake light tiltable steering wheel, red, 24000 miles, £6995, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

PREVIA, GLS 8-Seats VVT-I auto, y273jgw, cloth upholstery, remote central locking, power steering, electric mirrors, electric front windows, air conditioning, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, 15'' alloys, green, 114000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

YARIS, GS 3dr, 716461, remote central locking, electric sunroof, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, central locking, immobiliser, air bag, electric windows, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, stereo, white, 46000 miles, £2999, Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

YARIS, 2008, black, 1445 miles, £8995, WJ King Vauxhall, Welling, 020 8303 1234 (TRADE)

TVR

350I TASMIN (WEDGE), 1989 (f), 89 (f) tvr 350i convertible, stunning dark met blue coachwork with contrasting cream leather sports trim with blue piping, black mohair soft top, huge ground up nut and bolt restoration with all photo's to prove, no expense spared, big brake conversion, goodrich hoses etc, original service books, ew, em, quality cd hi-fi, alloy wheels, only 3 former keepers. sounds absolutely awesome!! summer bargain at £5995 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, metalic blue, 70, 000 miles miles, £5995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

AGILA, 2005, silver lightning, 44144 miles, £4995, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.6i 16v (Twinport) Club Hatchback 5dr, 05/2005, a/con alloy wheels remote c/locking electric windows pas & more!!!, silver lightning metallic, 23, 000 miles, £7295, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

COMBO CDTI, 2006, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check, white, 10260 miles, £6995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

MERIVA, 2005, star silver, 41340 miles, £6995, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

SIGNUM, Elegance 2198cc 5 door, 2004, cd player, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, approved driver's airbag, multiple airbags, power steering, history check, electric windows, silver, 34850 miles, £6995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

TIGRA, 2008, black sapphire, 0 miles, £13495, WJ King Vauxhall, Swanley, 01322 662890 (TRADE)

VECTRA, LS 16V, 2003, blue, 48000 miles, £4495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

VIVARO CDTI, 2006, central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check, red, 23000 miles, £8995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ZAFIRA, Life 16v, hy05 oex, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, green, 44100 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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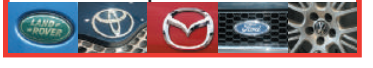

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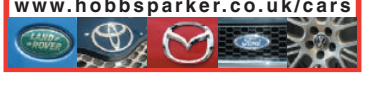

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Bike sales holding firm in the gloom

by STEVELOADER

BRITAIN'S credit crunch and financial doom and gloom is failing to crush motorcycle sales.

Registrations fell just one per cent in June and are down only 2.2 per cent overall this year – compared with six and 1.56 per cent respectively for sales of new cars.

Such buoyancy appears to be driven by commuters and everyday riders, with sales of mopeds and flexible 'adventure sport bikes' rising, according to figures from the bike trade's Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA).

The body's spokesman Craig Carey-Clinch said: "Given that everyone is feeling the financial pinch, and the poor summer weather, these figures are encouraging and slightly better than the industry expected."

The top-selling bike in June was again the Yamaha YZF R125. The best-selling make was Honda, followed by Yamaha and Suzuki.

GOING STRONG: Commuter bikes like the Gilera Runner VXR (above left) and the Vity (above) from last month's top-selling brand, Yamaha, ensured bike sales held their own in June

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Suzuki star's £99 insurance deal hits the road once more

IT'S comeback time for pop groups, retro clothing and BMX, so Suzuki has revived its £99 insurance deal on the all-new 2008 GSX-R600.

The fully comprehensive insurance offer allows customers aged 25-75 to buy the new 600 with a ultra-low £99 premium for the first year.

George Cheeseman Suzuki, GB marketing manager, , said: "Last year's offer proved extremely popular, so it made perfect sense to reintroduce the deal, this time on the all-new GSX-R600.

"The GSX-R range remains the best-selling sports bike line-up on the market, and with this offer we can make the range even more accessible to those that may otherwise struggle with insurance cover."

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New Harleys line-up

THIS line-up of Harley-Davidsons show why the iconic US bike brand continues to hold-up and spawn many imitators despite economic gloom

Now's the time to get ready for test

by STEVELOADER

NEW and more complex testing for a full motorcycle licence is fuelling a rush of people keen to pass before changes this October to meet EU directives.

A 'Now's the Time' campaign by the trade's Motor Cycle Industry Association (MCIA) is raising awareness of the revisions, which include theory, compulsory basic tests (CBT), full tests and direct access tests.

Post-October, as well as facing a sterner test, applicants can also expect a longer wait, dearer testing and fewer test centres – down from about 200 to just 60.

Anyone with a motorcycle CBT certificate or looking to get into biking for the first time, is urged to check out the MCIA site www.takeyourtest-now.com.

MCIA spokesman Craig Carey-Clinch said: "PTW riders are probably already our best-trained road users, and the new test elements will help riders understand more about the capabilities of their machines, but there is concern about the additional expense of training and taking tests, and that the number of test centres around the country is being slashed.

"The last time major changes to test procedures were brought in back in 1997, we saw a huge rise in test applications as people tried to beat the deadline. We expect history to repeat itself."

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B-King muscle mix with Stereophonics

STEREOPHONICS bassist Richard Jones has bought a 1,340cc Suzuki B-King muscle bike for regular trips through London to the recording studio and record company.

Jones, who has owned numerous bikes, said: "I'm delighted with the B-King.

"It looks out of this world and despite its imposing size and power. it's actually incredibly easy to ride.

"I've been using it to get to and from the recording studio, and it's dramatically reduced my journey times across town compared to the car, while being great fun too."

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Cutting phone bills will help needy young

SAVE money on your business phone bills and help disadvantaged children in Kent – that's the slogan from a specialist business-to-business communication company.

Sears Communications has launched a new tariff for businesses that it says will cut their monthly bills and raise money for Help a Kent Child at the same time.

The London company's new tariff offers low rates for business calls and it will donate 10 per cent of the monthly call bill to the charity for any company signing up by the end of September.

The firm is also supporting the Sail Down The Sub abseil challenge, which is being organised by Kent's Invicta FM radio station – part of GCap Media – on July 27.

Sponsored participants will abseil 65ft down the side of the submarine HMS Ocelot from its deck into the dry dock at Chatham Historic Dockyard. Money raised will be divided equally between Help a Kent Child and Fairbridge Kent, which gives young people support and encouragement to help develop themselves.

Help a Kent Child aims to give opportunities to disadvantged and poor youngsters, or those who are experiencing abuse, neglect, homelessness, violence and crime, as well as those who have an illness or disability.

At the heart of Europe

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

IT STARTED with a midnight chat, yet the idea has turned into the major success story of a 21-year link with Europe which has reaped an incredible quarter of a billion pounds for Kent.

That late-night talk, in 1987, was between Paul Sabine, then Kent County Council's chief executive, and council leader Tony Hart, when the Channel Tunnel was on the cards and all eyes were looking towards Europe.

Mr Sabine took up the story during a high-powered business seminar on Wednesday at KCC's Brussels office as part of a one-day celebration of the 21-year-old European link.

"The deal was that they gave me £100,000 to start a European activity in Kent and I would give it back to them in three years with a nought on the end – but I think we did just a little bit better than that.

"In those days it was about vision and leadership – and Tony Hart really did exercise leadership – and it was all about risk-taking. It is still about risk-taking, but it is measured and assessed.

"But you don't make progress without taking risks, and taking risks is always a problem in the public sector. But there have been huge benefits."

SEMINAR: Getting down to the business of keeping Kent on the agenda in Europe

Also in that early team was Alex King, now deputy leader and cabinet member for corporate support and external affairs. He said: "We began to learn how much money was available in Europe and we decided we wanted our fair share."

KCC became the first county council with a Brussels presence – in fact, it had to get permission from the Foreign Office.

Cllr King said: "It was an entertaining time, to say the least, because the Foreign Office didn't quite understand what is now called paradiplomacy. These 21 years have proved the county was right – the county is still right – and we expect to make a bigger pitch, not just in Europe but across the world."

Alan Marsh, the council's lead member international, said the European link had given the county a degree of independence, and with its close relationship with France was poised to take commercial, social and educational advantage of the French six-month EU presidency.

Between 2000 and 2006 Kent got £100 million from EU funds, but because of the expansion of the EU to 27 countries it looked as though funds for 2007 to 2013 would be about half that. But the figure actually ended up at £80 million.

David Oxlade, KCC's head of policy, said: "We managed to do a much better deal than we expected and we are already starting to think about what the allocation will be post-2013 – it takes that long to work its way through the system."

KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy told delegates that the county had effectively to be two years ahead to keep abreast of the challenges of the global economic environment.

The council has just moved to new, smaller and cheaper offices in the heart of the commercial area of Brussels – in the Rue du Commerce – which it shares with regional business partners and the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania.

The team of four, led by Dafydd Pugh, can be contacted by any Kent firm wanting to do business in Europe. A desk, with full back-up facilities, costs less than £1,600 a month.

Last year it brought in £80,000 income. The contact is brussels.office@kent.gov.uk.

HIGH RISE: KCC's offices are in the centre of Brussels' business district

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Here comes the future

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 1,600 jobs have been created in Ashford in the last year, according to Ashford's Future, the organisation given the brief to carry out the ambitious growth agenda for the town.

Ashford is now reckoned to be the fastest-growing town between London and continental Europe, with ambitious plans to create 28,000 jobs and build 31,000 homes by 2031.

About £2.5 billion of public and private sector money is expected to be invested in the town, which with the Thames Gateway is earmarked as a national growth area.

Training in highly skilled sectors is growing. For example, Hitachi Rail Maintenance opened its state-of-the-art centre in October, last year, and gives the town's school and college-leavers the chance to join an apprenticeship scheme.

FUTURISTIC: The proposed expansion at Kent Science Park

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "This is an exciting time for the town. We can predict many others will soon find Ashford best placed to do business."

Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, helped companies to create or retain 1,047 jobs in Ashford between April, 2007, and April, 2008. Chief executive Paul Wookey said: "Half our successes have been in the ICT sector, with other jobs being created in construction and property, financial services, engineering and printing. Furthermore, 75 per cent were knowledge-based jobs indicating the town is attracting a high quality workforce."

As is usual with such a major scheme, people are questioning if enough land will be available for so many new homes.

There are also concerns about infrastructure provision.

To the north west, development plans have been unveiled at Kent Science Park, near Sittingbourne, involving a further £25 million investment over the next five years and the creation of 500 extra jobs – increasing the total there by a half.

Proposals, which could also prove to be controversial, include a new arrivals centre, for which a planning application has just been lodged with Swale council, plus the development of more technology units after the success of the recently completed first phase of new buildings.

The most significant investment is for the extension of the park by four hectares, from 22 hectares, to enable it to accommodate the growth of existing tenants and new companies within 129,000 sq ft of new commercial property as the park bucks the market trend.

The park is consulting with residents, in particular those who live on Ruins Barn Road and Broadoak Road, hosting a public meeting and producing a newsletter and a website which contains details of the proposals at www.kentsciencepark.co.uk under 'future plans'.

Transformed hotel's two new eateries

TWO new restaurants are due to open at the end of this month as part of a £4 million transformation at Maidstone's four-star Marriott Tudor Park Hotel.

Work began in February, 2007, with refurbishment of the hotel's 11 meeting rooms. Renovation and restyling of all 120 bedrooms began last October and was completed in the spring. And recently the hotel's new-look £1 million lobby and mezzanine bar were completed.

Now two new eateries are on the menu. Brenchley's – named after Maidstone-born 19th century explorer Julius Lucius Brenchley – will overlook the golf course and serve breakfast and dinner. And a new casual bar and restaurant, Zest, will open for all-day dining.

Also, the leisure club's changing rooms have been upgraded to luxury standard and the bunkers on the championship 18-hole golf course have been redesigned.

General manager Richard Coggings said: "There's a real buzz about the hotel. We're proud of what we've achieved here."

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SFO's price-fixing case thrown out

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT pharmaceuticals firm is at the centre of a legal battle which has left the Serious Fraud Office red-faced.

The SFO was dealt a serious blow when a judge threw out charges of price-fixing brought against five drug companies, including Ashford-based Kent Pharmaceuticals.

Although the SFO is seeking leave to appeal, the investigation – which it had been building up for eight years at a cost of £25 million – was seen as a test case of its professional muscle.

The London-based SFO, which is an independent government department that investigates and prosecutes serious or complex fraud cases, began its investigation in 2000, and in April, 2002, more than 30 premises were raided at dawn.

In April, 2006, five companies, including Kent Pharmaceuticals, and nine executives, at that time including Denis William O'Neill and John Stephen Clark, both of Kent Pharmaceuticals, were charged with conspiracy to fix prices of certain generic drugs and allegedly defraud the Department of Health.

In January this year, the Law Lords heard a submission from another of the companies, Goldshield, that price-fixing could not be prosecuted under the common law offence of conspiracy to defraud, and they ruled in Goldshield's favour in March.

At Southwark Crown Court last week, Mr Justice Pitchford refused to allow the case to continue in the light of the Law Lords' ruling.

The SFO immediately said it was applying to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal. After the case, Kent Pharmaceuticals said it had no comment to make.

The three other companies in the case – which it involved penicillin-based antibiotics and the blood-thinner warfarin – were Norton Healthcare, Generics and Ranbaxy, .

However, the Department of Health has apparently recovered £34 million from four of the companies – not Kent Pharmaceuticals – through civil proceedings.

The failure of the case – codenamed Operation Holbein – has added to the SFO's headaches. It is already in the middle of the biggest shake-up in 20 years following the appointment of new director Richard Alderman.

After the case, Goldshield chairman Keith Hallawell said it should not have been brought and was an "appalling waste" of taxpayers' money.

However, some within the profession feel the SFO was victim of an unexpected ruling and the fact that price-fixing was not a criminal offence until 2003 – the charges related to the period 1996 to 2000.

On its website, Kent Pharmaceuticals says it was established in 1986 by Denis O'Neill and Michael Overy, that it is still a privately owned company and employs 250 staff, half at Ashford and the rest at depots in Cumbernauld, Durham and Barton.

It is a founder member of the British Association of Generic Distributors and a member of the British Generics Manufacturers' Association.

IMPOSING: Wadhurst College has been acquired by Regalpoint, to the delight of MD Tony Porter (inset)

Regalpoint rescue

SEVENOAKS housebuilder Regalpoint has expanded its portfolio across the South East after the takeover of a major portion of competitor Silver Homes.

Regalpoint has snapped up Silver Homes development sites in Sussex and Surrey and put together a £2 million rescue and restructuring package. Other sites have been taken up by another investor.

Crowborough-based Silver Homes was faltering so the rescuers stepped in before it went under. Most developments acquired by Regalpoint and already started by Silver Homes will now carry Regalpoint branding.

The most significant site Regalpoint will take on is Wadhurst College, where there is a planning application for 48 homes providing more than 50,000 sq ft of accommodation.

Regalpoint managing director Tony Porter said: "The acquisition of the major portion of Silver Homes fits in with our expansion plans."

Regalpoint acquired up-market Surrey builder Prism Homes in July, 2007.

Mr Porter said: "The sites we have taken on complement our business and we are keen to further expand and enhance the reputation of Regalpoint as a respected developer of quality new homes.

"Although some businesses are suffering, we are confident in the strength of our brand. We will continue to look at investment opportunities."

As part of the deal, Silver Homes' sales and marketing director Karen Lee-Brindle will take up a consultancy role with Regalpoint.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GO Ape, the high-wire forest adventure company which operates at two sites in Kent, is celebrating welcoming its millionth customer this month by donating thousands of pounds to good causes.

There are 17 courses across the country and each course is giving £1,000 to a chosen local group or charity.

Go Ape at Bedgebury Forest is donating to the Ladybirds Pre-school in Ticehurst, and Go Ape at Leeds Castle is donating to Demelza children's hospice at Bobbing.

ONE of Scotland's largest food firms, Grampian Country Foods, has been taken over by Dutch company Vion – whose UK operations are based in Sittingbourne – for an estimated £350 million.

Grampian employs 17,500 staff worldwide, while Vion already has four UK operations. Vion has an annual turnover of more than £5.5 billion and employs 18,000 people. Grampian supplies leading supermarkets with chicken, pork, beef and lamb.

STAFF at Kent frozen fruit and vegetables specialist Ardo UK enjoyed a taste of something new by completing their first ever batch of NVQs.

Ten workers at the production and cold storage site in Headcorn have gained NVQs in food manufacturing.

Another 50 are working towards the qualifications, which the company introduced last year.

Ardo UK is part of the Belgian Ardo Group, Europe's largest supplier of frozen fruit and vegetables.

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When a farmhouse is an asset as well as a home

Regular readers will recall our editions of May 18 and June 22, when we highlighted Julian from the City, who bought some arable land. He paid a record £10,000 an acre, pipping to the post neighbouring farmer George. Then Julian asked George – both clients of Tunbridge Wells solicitors Cripps Harries Hall – to run the farm as a contractor. Here is the latest update.

WHEN is a farmhouse not a farmhouse? This week the focus is on Julian's farmhouse, by far the most valuable single asset on the farm, and whether that will qualify for 100 per cent Inheritance Tax (IHT) relief when the time comes.

To qualify, the farmhouse has to be the place from which the farming operations are conducted; it must be a home for Julian from which the farm is managed; and it must be of a character appropriate to the farm as a whole. Julian must hold regular meetings with his farm contractor at the farm office in the house; and there must be a regular pattern of using the property as Julian's home.

Julian's proposal to build a substantial extension may disqualify the farmhouse from having a character appropriate to the holding. The tax people are now looking very closely at the facts surrounding such use to verify entitlement to relief.

Even if it qualifies, only the agricultural value of the house will be relieved – any element of the market value in excess of that will fail to avoid IHT.

The district valuer values the property as if there was a perpetual agricultural tie on it to establish its agricultural value, which in some cases can be very different to the open market value.

It has to be said that the 'farmhouses' of weekend farmers are going to struggle to qualify for relief in this more rigorous climate of examination.

Careful planning at the outset and throughout ownership is needed to build the best case.

Core issue for Cox growers

By **TONY PATEY**
Business Editor

SCIENTISTS at a Kent research station have thrown apple growers a lifeline by solving a problem which threatened the future of a widely produced dessert variety.

Three in every 10 apple growers have suffered financial losses in recent years because of a new disorder which attacked Cox's apples kept in storage prior to sale.

In the worst cases complete stores of fruit, which could be worth more than £100,000, could not be sold.

The disorder, known as "diffuse browning disorder" causes a progressive browning of the apple flesh, which is generally not apparent until the fruit has been in cold storage for at least two months. Now work at East Malling Research has revealed a link between certain types of chemical sprays applied in the orchard and the development of the disorder. The chemicals are commonly used to control both orchard diseases and the growth of the trees.

RUINED: Discoloured flesh in stored apples

David Johnson, EMR's post-harvest specialist, said: "Research is continuing to understand the mechanism of this effect but, meanwhile, growers have been advised to use alternative chemicals to produce quality fruit without the threat of this disorder.

"This research has restored confidence among UK growers that they can deliver Cox apples of the required quality, to continue supplying consumers with fresh fruit from September through to March."

Cox's Orange Pippin is a cultivated variety. The first plant was raised from a pip in about 1825 at Colnbrook, England, by a retired brewer and horticulturist called Richard Cox.

The variety was introduced for sale by the 1850s and grown commercially from the 1860s, particularly in the Vale of Evesham, and later in Kent. There have been a number of crosses from the variety.

It is said to be the only apple in which, when shaken, makes a rattling sound as the pips are loosely held, whereas other apples have their pips contained as part of the apple flesh.

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'It's not enough to sit tight and hope for the best'

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Last week the Bank of England left the base rate unchanged at five per cent for the fourth month running. The decision was not greeted with enthusiasm by many sectors of the market which were looking for an easing to stimulate economic growth, although subsequent inflation data has suggested the Bank's move was entirely correct. Given that decision and a raft of poor economic data that underlines the real downturn in the economy, business publisher Richard Parsons spoke to **Stuart Robb**, tax specialist at leading chartered accountants Baker Tilly

BAKER TILLY

Q Does the slew of recent poor economic data mean the UK is heading into a full-blown recession or can we avoid it?

A Let's see: we have a banking crisis, rising commodity prices, inflation and an economic slowdown. It doesn't look good does it?

When we surveyed 100 companies in February, despite some already feeling the pinch from the credit crunch, most finance directors remained upbeat about their company's prospects. We contacted them again in April and the vast majority had seen an adverse impact on their business, with reduced profits and borrowing problems being cited.

Q How long would you forecast this cycle to take and what is needed to get the economy back on track?

A Of the finance directors we spoke to in April, 60 per cent said the economy would recover in 2009, with the majority citing the second half of the year. One-third predicted recovery for 2010 or beyond.

In March, Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling said the UK was better placed than other economies to survive a global economic crisis. According to our survey, 60 per cent of finance directors disagreed, placing the blame on Government policy and specifically corporate taxation.

Q Interest rates: up or down? Counter inflation or stimulate growth? What is a sensible strategy?

A Clearly, homeowners and businesses would benefit from a reduction in interest rates, but the Bank of England believes tight credit controls will curb our spending and keep the lid on inflation.

Latest CPI data makes an immediate easing unlikely, although credit conditions are very tight, which means future inflation should be kept under control. I think the Bank should be prepared to act quickly to reduce interest rates if there are further signs of a downturn.

Q What is your advice to businesses facing up to the credit squeeze and finding it hard to access affordable funding through normal channels?

A Companies cannot carry on as normal. They cannot simply batten down the hatches and hope for the best. It is essential to spot warning signs early on.

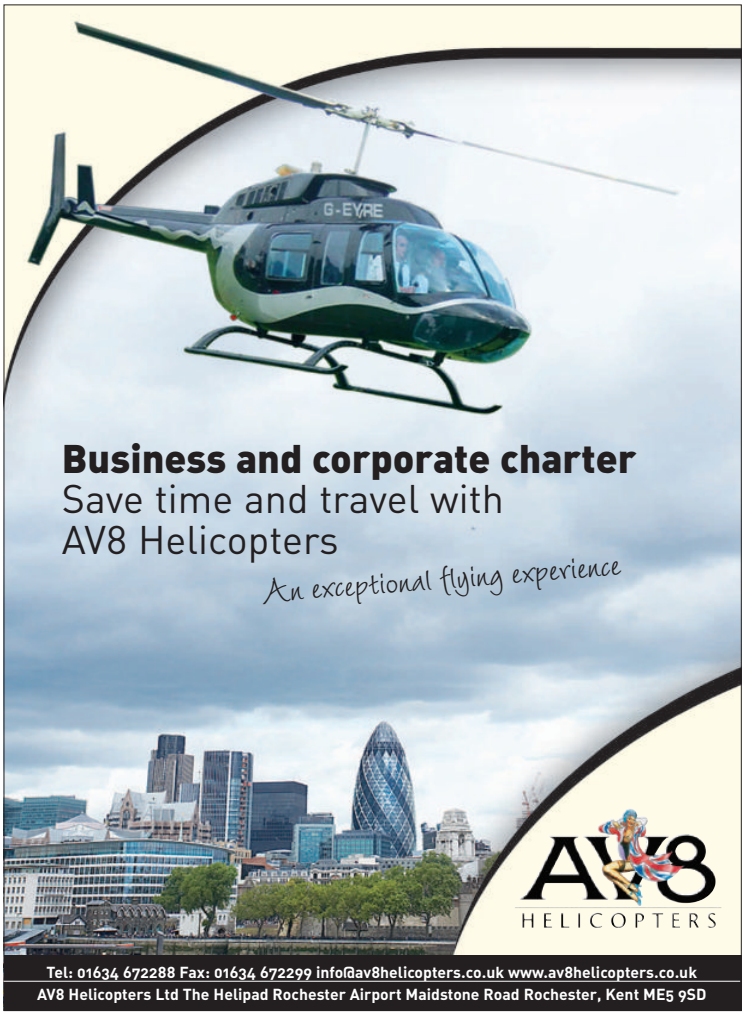
In a downturn, you must focus on credit control to spot customer weaknesses and assess the impact key supplier failure might have. Early professional advice is essential to plan the course of the business accordingly. In a difficult market, the timely production of management information is vital to understanding and reacting to trends and opportunities. Robust and accurate forecasts are also vital to managing banks' expectations and maintaining management's credibility. If they haven't already, I would urge companies to take stock of the credit crunch's effect on their business. You have to make decisions, make changes and make things happen.

Q What can Baker Tilly do to advise and support businesses suffering from diminishing returns during this downturn?

A We want to be more than auditors and tax advisers. We can help companies carry out risk management reviews, so that they can recognise key risks and manage them as part of a clearly articulated strategy.

Companies are much more likely to maintain stakeholder confidence in management ability and the health of the company.

We can work with business owners to make them feel more in control, looking at the key drivers of profitability and identifying new opportunities. Acquisitions are still possible in this climate: the question is, are you hunter or prey? The better businesses recognise they cannot sit still. We want to give our clients clear ideas on improvement and inspire them by what is possible, even in this difficult market.



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Truth is always the best policy on CVs

IF THIS year's winner of The Apprentice TV series is anything to go by, it seems that lying on your curriculum vitae might just get you that dream job.

By **NICOLE TOVEY**
Solicitor, Buss Murton

That's the message being sent out by Sir Alan Sugar, who hired Lee McQueen despite discovering that he lied on his CV.

Research shows that this kind of fraud is on the increase, with figures suggesting that one in four CVs contains lies, and it is estimated that it costs UK businesses up to £40 million a year.

A Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development survey found that 28 per cent of CVs contain "very serious errors" which could mean anything from made-up references to exaggerated qualifications to not mentioning time spent in prison.

Failing to carry out proper checks can often result in employing individuals who lack the necessary experience.

More seriously, it may place the public or other employees at risk, and increase the danger of fines from regulatory bodies and the potential for criminal activity.

The simplest way to prevent CV fraud is to vet candidates thoroughly and to request permission to carry out basic background checks.

This should include ensuring employees have permission to work in the UK and contacting previous employers where references are provided.

Offers of employment should always be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references and applications should clearly set out the consequences of providing false information. Asking candidates to sign a declaration that applications and CVs are genuine is also becoming common practice and is seen as a legitimate tactic to help prevent fraud.

In the event of fraud, employers have a number of legal options, including pursuing a claim for breach of contract or misrepresentation. A lot depends on the severity and timing of the lie and whether the employee works in a safety-critical environment.

For example, an office assistant with a seven-year unblemished employment record is unlikely to be fairly dismissed for telling a little white lie on their CV. But claiming a bogus university degree is very serious. One woman who did this – claiming a BSc degree in diagnostic radiotherapy and membership of a professional body – received a one-year prison sentence after being found out.

Where the breach is fundamental an employer would be within their rights to dismiss without notice or pay in lieu and any salary or associated costs of employment may be reclaimed. Less serious breaches are likely to result in an employee being taken through the disciplinary process and employers should be careful to ensure that, as a minimum, they follow the statutory procedure.

Also, false claims that attract an offer of employment may very well lead to a claim for compensation, which will include the cost of hiring any replacement and the reimbursement of associated costs. The message to employees is to think twice before lying – they are unlikely to be as lucky as Lee McQueen.

• ***Nicole Tovey, is a solicitor in the employment and litigation team in the Tunbridge Wells office of law firm Buss Murton, which also has offices in Cranbrook and Dartford.***

No boundaries at showground

BEYOND Boundaries Live will be showcasing the latest mobility innovations at the County Showground in Detling on Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26.

The products and services will be aimed at people with all disabilities and of all ages as well as their families, carers, professionals and the elderly.

There will be more than 120 exhibitors offering products to see, touch, test and compare, all aimed at contributing to a more independent lifestyle adapted to the needs of visitors.

Celebrities including Ken Hames, the face of the BBC TV's Beyond Boundaries show, Ade Adepitan, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Kerry McGregor and Michael Caines will be there.

The show is organised by Zinc Events and supported by Kent County Council.

Tickets are free. Register at www.beyond-boundaries.co.uk, or call 0208 971 8286.

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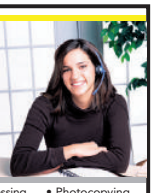

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In praise of Generation Y

IT'S time to bin the myth that Generation Y – today's teens and twentysomethings – are self-absorbed, disloyal and impatient.

A report by the Chartered Management Institute, which has many members in Kent, shatters many long-held beliefs about Generation Y, sometimes referred to as "the Millennials", those born between 1982 and 1997.

It's a succession from Generation X, a term made popular by Canadian writer Douglas Coupland in 1991, and which identified the first generation hotwired to hi-tech. The survey found that far from the stereotypical view of Generation Y as self-indulgent, younger managers are driven by ethics and a sense of purpose.

Only 14 per cent claimed they would "quit tomorrow" if they won the lottery and almost all wanted to work for an organisation that "does something I believe in".

Debunking the myth that Generation Y lacks commitment, the report shows that 74 per cent of respondents have been in their current job for three years or more and only seven per cent strongly agreed with the statement "there's no point being excessively loyal to an organisation".

Two out of every five also work in the evenings, if necessary, 37 per cent work at weekends and 27 per cent also use travel time for working. And the idea that Generation Y is less committed to career planning is also shattered. Asked why they joined their employer, many focused on the long-term career opportunities available.

Almost two-thirds have a personal development plan and a half suggest they know what they need to achieve their ambitions.

Institute spokeswoman Jo Causon said: "Generation Y has been dismissed as self-centred, yet the evidence shows that this is not the case. Overall there is a strong desire to develop at work and enjoy their job.

"Yet busy individuals working long hours can become demotivated and leave. Organisations need to be aware of this and act before it becomes reality."

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Pfizer's on a roll

HUNDREDS of Pfizer staff took to two wheels in support of the annual Pfizer Cycle To Work Day.

The event, part of National Bike Week, saw staff from the healthcare company's European research and development headquarters at Sandwich using pedal power to get to and from work for the day.

Pfizer scientist Richard Chew cycles to work every day and organised this year's event.

He said: "Cycling to work provides door-to-door transport and runs on cornflakes."

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RICHARD TURNILL: "Demand has fallen"

The reduction in funding is hitting hard

FOLLOWING on from our recent series of articles on the state of the economy as viewed by business experts and commentators within Kent, we spoke to Richard Turnill from Cluttons chartered surveyors.

Reviewing the state of the commercial property market in Kent, which had initially held up quite well in the face of the economic downturn, Mr Turnill said: "The current economic climate and the reduction in available funding is now starting to impact on the market, with growing concerns about future performance.

"Transaction levels are reducing as businesses are being more cautious in their decision-making and with fewer firms expecting to expand or being able to afford to upgrade or move to new premises.

"In consequence, demand has fallen and there is now a surplus of supply in some categories of the commercial market, leading to longer marketing periods.

"There are still deals to be done, but potential buyers and tenants are now in a stronger position than for some years and property needs to be realistically priced to achieve a deal.

"Owners and landlords will need to accept that recent achievable price levels will have to be modified to secure completions.

"At present there are concerns as to the immediate future performance of the retail, industrial and office sectors in the tenanted and vacant possession sections.

"In the investment market the decline in capital values has slowed and although higher yields are now available there remains a low level of transactional activity".

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

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BM SOLUTIONS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 6.35% **L:** 75% **U:** 01/10/2013
OD: £1,000 ARRANGEMENT

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RT: FIXED **R%:** 6.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/08/2010
OD: £999 ARRANGEMENT

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 6.69% **L:** 80% **U:** 31/10/2018
OD: £995 ARRANGEMENT

OTHER

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RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.78% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,499 ARRANGEMENT

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.89% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £2,000 ARRANGEMENT

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.79% **L:** 75%
U: 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,999 ARRANGEMENT

OPEN WORK – ACCORD
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 5.89% **L:** 75%
U: 30/10/2010 **OD:** £1,495 ARRANGEMENT

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CANADA LIFE	£621	CANADA LIFE	£677	NORWICH UNION	£611	NORWICH UNION	£667
LEGAL & GENERAL	£615	LEGAL & GENERAL	£674	CANADA LIFE	£607	LEGAL & GENERAL	£659
NORWICH UNION	£612	NORWICH UNION	£669	LEGAL & GENERAL	£603	CANADA LIFE	£657
STANDARD LIFE	£608	PRUDENTIAL	£668	PRUDENTIAL	£588	PRUDENTIAL	£648
PRUDENTIAL	£602	STANDARD LIFE	£665	STANDARD LIFE	£588	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£640
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£599	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£659	SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	£585	STANDARD LIFE	£640
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£561	SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£624	SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£540	SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£597

* THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AS AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

STATISTICS on child trust funds show that parents are not investing the vouchers they are given after the birth of a child.

Every child is entitled to a voucher for £250 which is intended to kick-start their long-term savings. The money is available when the child reaches the age of 18.

Families on lower incomes can qualify for double vouchers, having £500 to invest and there are top-ups available from the Government when the child gets to the age of seven.

If parents have not invested the voucher after one year there is a default and the Government will invest it for the child in a scheme of its choice.

Recent figures show that of the vouchers issued in the first half of 2007, just 71 per cent have been invested. This means many parents are ignoring the issue.

It has been suggested that many find the vouchers confusing and do not understand the investment options on offer, so do nothing.

If a recent Chartered Insurance Institute report is to be believed, these suggestions are right, as the survey indicates 46 per cent admitted they do not understand financial products, and 75 per cent agreed that people in the UK were naive when it comes to finances.

Ninety-six per cent think basic financial literacy should be on the curriculum in schools, which is an increase on the 75 per cent who thought so in 2004.

The Government is considering a generic financial advice service called Money Guidance, which would be available in the same fashion as the Citizens Advice Bureau – and if the above figures are correct it cannot come too soon.

To help people save so they can cope with periods of hardship – such as recession and higher prices – we need to educate, educate and educate.

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Picture: KEITH SLATER

CLUB CAPTAIN: Bentley has new role

We're good enough for promotion, says Bentley

GILLINGHAM'S new club captain Mark Bentley is targeting nothing short of promotion when the League Two season kicks off in three weeks' time.

Mark Stimson's side are one of the favourites for promotion after relegation from League One last season.

Bentley, who was in the Southend United side promoted from the division four seasons ago, believes coming down to the fourth tier could help the club long term.

He said: "It might have done us a favour to drop down a level to start again. When you look at sides like Carlisle who have dropped down and come back up again I think our target is to get that winning momentum.

"Everyone is still disappointed about last year, but that's forgotten. We came back early in June, we could have moped around for a month, but we thought 'no, we're going to show people who laughed at us last year we are good enough' and we are certainly going for promotion."

The midfielder impressed Stimson with his committed displays last season and was made club captain earlier this month. He takes over the position made vacant by the departed Ian Cox, although Andrew Crofts remains as team captain.

Bentley said: "When the gaffer called me and said he wanted to make me club captain I was delighted, it's a good achievement. I think it will add that bit of experience.

"Crofty does a good job on the match day, but I can be an extra voice for the players being the experienced player. If any of the younger lads have a problem and want to speak to me, hopefully I can help them out."

Gills' next pre-season friendly is at Priestfield on Wednesday against an Ipswich Town XI. Kick-off is at 7.45pm.

First-timers enjoy their chance to shine at The Open

By TOM HOWARD

BOTH Kent's hopes, Tom Sherreard and Peter Appleyard, had memorable starts at Royal Birkdale as they both briefly led at The Open this week.

Maidstone amateur Sherreard and Sevenoaks professional Appleyard both qualified for golf's most famous tournament by coming through local and regional qualifying this month.

The pair braved the wet and windy conditions, with Sherreard carding a seven-over-par 77 and Appleyard four-over-par 74, leaving them well placed to make the cut after the first day. They found themselves ahead of some illustrious names in golf including Vijay Singh, Ernie Els and reigning Open champion Padraig Harrington.

Sherreard, 20, felt the tournament was all he had hoped it would be, and is glad the occasion didn't appear to put him off his game.

He said: "It has definitely lived up to my expectations. I went into the competition knowing that hardly anyone would know me, but when my name was called out on the first tee a couple people were shouting my name.

Daunting

"I think it was the fact I was English, but it was still nice to hear. Sometimes it was quite hard to fully concentrate, but once I got going I was fine."

Going into the competition with some of the world's best golfers, Sherreard was most looking forward to the chance to speak to Justin Rose. He got his wish by playing Tuesday's practice round with the 2007 European Order of Merit winner.

Sherreard said: "To learn the course with Justin was brilliant. He was really helpful and a nice guy. It was great to have the chance to speak to him. Justin really helped me to play and gave me a bit of confidence that has made the experience less daunting."

After making a 40-foot putt on the first hole, Sherreard briefly had a share of the lead, but was unaware at the time.

"I got texts from friends and family saying I was in the lead which was great," he said. "I mean, not everyone can say they have led The Open, so least I can say that."

BOTH MAKING THEIR MARK: Peter Appleyard (above) and Tom Sherreard
Pictures: GETTY IMAGES

For Appleyard, his birdie on the third hole in his opening round saw him take the outright lead and left him wishing he had his camera to hand.

Appleyard said:"It was nice to be top of the leaderboard. I just hope someone took a photo of it. Unfortunately, I couldn't keep it there."

To keep up-to-date with Sherreard and Appleyard's progress at Royal Birkdale, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Picture: ADY KERRY

IN SAFE HANDS: Liam Daish

Fans put faith in Daish rather than web

PICKING the team for website-owned Ebbsfleet United could be a thing of the past and instead be a tool for the club's management to gauge supporters' opinion, according to its creator Will Brooks.

The website takeover was completed in January, which was sold on the 'own the club, pick the team' slogan and it delivered its promise to the 30,000 members by launching the team selection function last week.

Two games have passed and on both occasions the members have decided to allow manager Liam Daish to select the starting XI, with less than 10 per cent of members voting.

Brooks is adamant the feature will be in place for the club's first Blue Square Premier League game against Mansfield Town at Stonebridge Road on August 9, but admits in the future the function may change.

Brooks told Kent on Sunday: "It will definitely be in place for the first league game, but as for scrapping it, if numbers continue to be low it is very difficult to say.

"Like I say, we need to give it time to see how it goes. It is very hard to judge after two pre -season friendlies.

"I think there will always be a place for the pick-the-team function for MyFC even if numbers continue to be low. It is a chance for the people to have their say."

Brooks was expecting a larger turnout and believes one of the reasons is the members have faith in manager Liam Daish – a view echoed by Fleet Trust chairman Jessica McQueen.

She said: "I think the minority of the original members actually wanted to pick the team. I think most members wanted to be part of the club, which they are, and as time has passed they feel close to it. They feel leaving the decision on team selection to the manager is the best option.

"I do not want to pick the team. I did not choose to last week and I won't ever want to pick the team.

"I feel it is down to the manager."

With members paying a £35 subscription to MyFootballClub.co.uk annually, Brooks is confident if the team selection function was to disappear, members would still renew their membership.

He added: "From looking at the hits on the website, interest in the club is still high and people are going online talking to members and watching the TV links. It's early days so it is very hard to tell, but I am reasonably confident members will renew even if the team selection function was to go."

Twenty20 league an exciting proposition

EPL will be good news for fans and coffers

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT have backed the new structure to domestic cricket that will see the creation of a Twenty20 English Premier League and the scrapping of the Pro40 League.

The England and Wales Cricket Board announced plans to change the structure of the game that will now see all 18 counties involved in the EPL – a competition that will run along the lines of the multi-million pound Indian Premier League.

The league, which will be under the hugely successful Twenty20 format, will see 18 counties plus two overseas teams, split into two divisions. Each side plays five home matches and four away games, primarily on Friday nights and weekends, over the course of about five weeks during July and August.

The EPL, which will replace the Pro40 competition that is due to end in 2009, will run as well as the domestic Twenty20, that culminates in finals day in July, with the finalists securing a place in the Champions League.

The 2010 season will now consist of the County Championship, Twenty20 League, EPL and the 50-over Friends Provident Trophy.

Kent's commercial and operations director Jon Fordham has backed the ECB's plans, although is disappointed the Pro40 competition, which starts for Kent today, is to be scrapped next year.

He said: "One-day cricket started with the John Player League and the Gillette Cup so it is a shame to see that go. Our crowds for Pro40 are much better than the Friends Provident Trophy, but that might be something to do with the timing of that competition.

"Twenty20 has proved to be what the paying customers want. Is 10 games overdoing it? We will not know if it is too much until the competition is played, but I am sure each Twenty20 game will be taken on its merit."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

BIG HIT: Kent's Azhar Mahmood has helped light up Twenty20 games and attract crowds

The 20-over game has been a huge hit with Kent fans as the club has almost capacity crowds for games held at its Canterbury and Beckenham grounds and is the best source of income at £60,000 a game, which is more than the county earn from an entire season of County Championship cricket.

It is important, therefore, that both competitions are managed in the right way, but Fordham admits it will be a case of seeing how the first season of both competitions go.

He said: "These are two different competitions. The domestic Twenty20 sees us play 10 matches in a few days and that can be very difficult. The EPL will be spread over a longer time and I believe the best thing about it will be the fact it is played on a Friday night or a weekend. If it is spread over a few months and is on a Friday night, then it gets a little more like football when everyone knows a game is on a Saturday afternoon. The problem for us is our supporters never know when to expect Twenty20."

Another undoubted advantage of the new EPL will be that Kent get to face teams from around the country.

At present, they play in the Southern Division which means Kent regularly face Surrey, Sussex and Essex throughout the season. The EPL will give Kent fans the opportunity to see other teams such as Durham and Lancashire.

The other major difference is the make-up of each county. While in the domestic Twenty20 cup Kent feature 10 players and an overseas star, the EPL is likely to allow up to four overseas players per county.

Although the finances for clubs are yet to be decided, Fordham hopes it will help the Kent coffers. He said: "There are still decisions to be made, but hopefully it will be a little shot in the arm for all 18 counties rather than the nine Test venues."

Ticket rush takes club by surprise

KENT fans have been flocking to the St Lawrence Ground to get their tickets for both Twenty20 finals day and the Friends Provident Trophy at Lord's.

The demand for tickets has been so great the club has had to get more from both Lord's and the Rose Bowl which will make Kent the best supported club in both finals.

For Twenty20 finals day at the Rose Bowl on Saturday, Kent sold their allocation last week and have been inquiring as to whether they can have any more.

Kent's commercial and operations director, Jon Fordham said the club were a little taken aback at the demand to see Rob Key's side in both finals.

He said: "It has been a novel experience which took us by surprise really because of the level of both finals.

"Last year for Twenty20 finals day we had to return about 500 tickets of the 1,600 we were given.

"But we sold out our allocation for this year by Thursday morning, and are enquiring as to whether we can get 500 more from the Rose Bowl as neither Durham or Glamorgan will be able to sell their allocation in time. By the looks of it we will have sold 1,900 tickets from our end which will make Kent the best supported club out of the four finalists."

While the sales of Twenty20 tickets have been selling like the proverbial hot cakes, so too have places for the Friends Provident Trophy final against the Essex Eagles at Lord's on August 16.

The club have already sold their 4,500 allocation and Fordham has been selling a further 1,000 he received this week from Lord's.

Essex are yet to put their tickets on sale and it is expected they will be unable to sell their allocation and may have to return some. Fordham has not ruled out asking for some more for Kent, if the demand is still there.

He said: "I think last season showed Kent are a decent one-day side and now we are in two finals, we are perhaps more than a decent side and probably the best in the country."

Chairman sees new ground as hub for city's community

THIS is the image of a new community football hub that includes a home built to Ryman League standards for Canterbury City FC.

After more than a year of planning, Ridlands Farm, in south Canterbury, has been chosen as the city council's preferred site for a community facility that would house Canterbury City, five-a-side football pitches, an artificial 3G pitch, other grass pitches and a clubhouse that would feature a state-of-the-art gym.

It is hoped that after funding and planning permission is secured, work can begin in the autumn.

Canterbury City chairman Phil Knight is delighted a site has been identified which will help create an exciting future for the club.

He told Kent on Sunday: "The understanding we have is it will be built to Ryman League standard. The KCFA have recommended it to Ryman League standard, but built in a modular way.

"For example, if the project goes better than we hope we could add to it. The expectation is if we needed to it would be easy to expand. I think the key thing about it is because it is starting from scratch, both us as a club and the hub, it gives us an opportunity to build for the future."

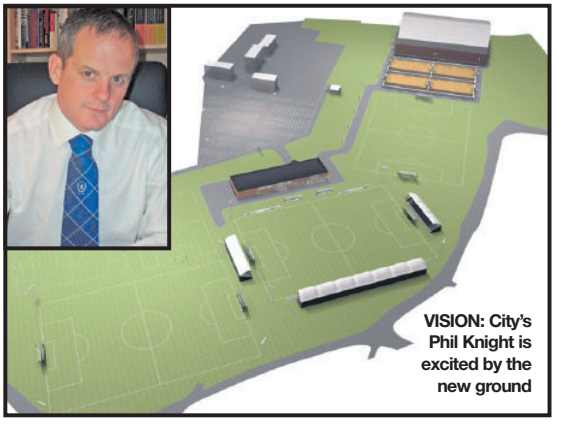
After promotion from Kent County Division Two East, the city club are on course for their target of being a Ryman League club within the next four years.

It is hoped the club would be in a position to move into the facility by the time it reaches the Kent League, which if they were to achieve back-to-back promotions, would see them in the Kent League Premier Division.

Knight said: "We have always talked about 2010. In a perfect world our first game there would also be our first back in the Kent League. We all know life doesn't work like that – we need two promotions and would need the development to come through on time without any hitches."

While City will use the new site for its men's, women's and junior section, the plans are for it to be used by the community throughout the course of a week which would allow schools and other clubs to benefit from the project.

Knight added: "It's important to stress that while we will use it as a base, it will have a much broader community use. It will become our home, but it's got a wider use, it's not just a home for us. The word community is on there for a reason. It would be a huge waste if it was only used on a Saturday."



VISION: City's Phil Knight is excited by the new ground

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Picture: ADY KERRY

HIGH TIMES: James Tredwell celebrates a Somerset wicket with Martin van Jaarsveld (middle) and Joe Denly

Give us a break

Kent all-rounder says his team will be glad to take a breather ahead of two major finals

THE first thing we will do as a squad this coming week – leading up to next Saturday's huge Twenty20 Cup finals day at the Rose Bowl – is have a rest.

It is amazing to think that, since late May, we have only had three days completely off in the space of 53 days, not that we are complaining that much given the success we have had in that time.

But the fact that we now have a free week could not be better timed, and we are planning to have two or three days off when we get back home tonight from Birmingham, having played our opening NatWest Pro40 league match, against Warwickshire, today.

Having been away for the past five nights, first in Somerset and then up in the Midlands, it is important all the players have a bit of time to themselves before we meet up again on Thursday to start preparing for what is potentially the most lucrative prize English domestic cricket has ever offered.

Winning our semi-final tie against Essex next Saturday morning will not just give us the chance to retain our Twenty20 Cup trophy from last summer in the evening's final – it will, of course, qualify us as one of the two English teams who should be entered into the new £2.5 million Champions League tournament this autumn.

Exact details of that event have still to be confirmed, including whether it will be played in India or Dubai or wherever, but what is certain is that eight teams – hopefully the two Twenty20 Cup finalists from England, the two IPL finalists Rajasthan Royals and the Chennai

Super Kings, plus two more leading teams from both Australia and South Africa – will be fighting it out for the sort of prize money cricket has never had before the explosion of interest in the Twenty20 game.

The pressure will be on all of us to perform on Saturday – even more so as this year we will probably be favourites on finals day, whereas last August we went into the day at Trent Bridge as the least-fancied of the four counties who qualified.

So there is a lot for us to deal with, both on the day and in our preparation, but I am confident in the skills and abilities of the Kent team who will walk onto the pitch at the Rose Bowl.

What is quite remarkable – as we contemplate the fact we have both the Twenty20 Cup finals day and the Friends Provident Trophy final at Lord's to look forward to during the next month – is that we have not really played to our best potential as a team yet in either the 20-over or 50-over game.

I suppose our Friends Provident semi-final win up at Durham was our best all-round limited-overs performance of the season so far, but there is a real feeling within the side that if we do get to play at our absolute best during one of these finals then someone is going to get a massive hiding from us.

People ask me whether I think we are a better Twenty20 side than we were last summer when we won the trophy, and my answer is two words: Azhar Mahmood.

What Azhar has already brought to the team this season is immense. He is such a good player, in all forms of the game, but in Twenty20 cricket in particular he can consistently whack it out the ground in those last few overs better than anyone I've ever seen. He is also a wonderful bowler 'at the death', which gives us another great asset to add in to the mix.

But the other extra factor we have this year, as opposed to 2007, is Justin Kemp. He might not yet have really fired for us in Twenty20, although at Beckenham he virtually won the shortened game for us against Middlesex in just a couple of overs of hitting.

Plus, to have achieved what we have with him merely smouldering in the background is another source of enormous confidence for us.

Winning the Twenty20 last year will also be valuable experience this time and one of the things we have learned in this format is not to panic.

You can easily believe things are going away from you, with everything happening so quickly, but there is always just that little bit more time than you think and we have already shown on several occasions this season that it is possible to drag yourself back into a game, with either bat or ball.

On a personal level, being named in England's provisional squad of 30 for the Champions Trophy recently was great for me, and for Rob Key too, but this next week – and the weeks to follow – are all about the team playing well as we chase silverware on all fronts.

If we achieve what we are aiming to achieve as a team then all the individual honours will take care of themselves.

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

Bridger builds F3 lead

JAY Bridger has a 24-point lead in the Formula 3 National Class after taking a victory and a third place in the eighth round of the championship at his home circuit Brands Hatch last week.

The driver from Horsmonden near Tonbridge, who is in his first season in Formula 3, did not disappoint and took his third win of the season.

Bridger said: "The victory is probably the best of my career, even better than the one at Monza earlier in the year. To win at my home circuit is a great feeling."

Bridger will tackle one of the most challenging circuits in the world for the next round of the championship as the Formula takes to Spa in Belgium on August 2.

Stones struggle to find sponsor

MAIDSTONE United may have to run without a main sponsor when the new season begins next month, according to chairman Paul Bowden-Brown.

With just weeks before the campaign begins, the club has been unsuccessful so far in attracting a new sponsor.

Maidstone-based double glazing company Britelite Windows ended its two-year association with the Stones at the end of last season.

Bowden-Brown has revealed companies have been interested, but a deal has not come to fruition.

He said: "We've had some interest but no-one has really come forward. We've just got to keep using all our contacts to try and attract a sponsor quickly.

"It has been a difficult time for everyone at the moment because of the credit crunch."

Youngsters to run rings around Rose

TOP-level athletics will be coming to the Julie Rose Stadium in the form of the Norwich Union under 20/23 Combined Events International next week.

Europe's best young athletes will make their way to Ashford's athletics stadium for the event which will see Great Britain battle against Switzerland, France and Netherlands.

Athletics fans will be treated to the high quality competition over the weekend of July 26-27.

Events will start at 11am next Saturday and at 9.30am on the Sunday, with women's, men's and team presentations closing proceedings.

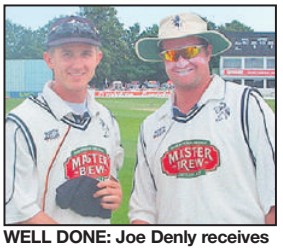
BRITISH Superbike rider Scott Smart will embark on an eight-hour endurance race in the FIM World Endurance Championship at the Suzuka in Japan next Sunday.

The Maidstone rider, who is 13th in the British Superbike Championship, will race for British-based endurance team Phase One Yamaha.

The team are experienced in the FIM World Endurance Championships after taking the title in 1993, 2000 and 2003.

Smart will share the Yamaha machine with Australia's Damian Cudlin and Glen Richards.

Kent duo's efforts awarded



WELL DONE: Joe Denly receives county cap from skipper Rob Key

KENT stars Joe Denly and Azhar Mahmood have both been awarded their county caps after a season in which they have been integral to the club's good form.

Former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood, who joined in the close season from Surrey, has excelled in the Twenty20 format and has proved to be a shrewd signing.

Denly, 22, who made his Kent debut in 2004, has already represented the England Lions and has established himself alongside captain Rob Key at the top of the order in all competitions.

Both players received their caps from Key in last week's county championship win over Yorkshire at Canterbury.

Canterbury Cricket Week

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MONTELL TIMES HER RUN TO PERFECTION

Douglas books place in GB record books

Picture: ADY KERRY

FAST TRACK: Montell broke the GB ladies 100m record which had stood for 27 years

By **TOM HOWARD**

SPRINTER Montell Douglas is confident she can return from the Beijing Olympics with a medal after becoming Britain's fastest-ever woman and running one of the quickest times in the world this year.

The Bromley-born sprinter shocked the athletics world on Thursday by smashing the Great Britain 100-metre record which has stood for 27 years.

Competing at a meeting at Loughborough, Douglas clocked a time of 11.05 seconds, with a following wind of two metres per second, to take the record away from Kathy Cook.

It was one of the quickest times this year, but is behind American Torri Edwards' 10.78, which was also wind assisted, set earlier in 2008.

Douglas told Kent on Sunday: "It was an amazing feeling to break the record. It came as a real shock as I did not expect to run as fast as that at all, especially running one of the top times in the world this year.

"It does not really change my outlook on athletics by being the fastest-ever British woman. I have always wanted to be the best. I have strived for perfection throughout my career and want to run times under 11 seconds. I have always had faith in myself and my coach and my hard work in training has paid off."

It has been an extraordinary week for Douglas, who was named in the 4x100m Great Britain squad for the Beijing Olympics on Monday after finishing second in the 100m trials at Birmingham last Saturday.

However, by breaking the record she is almost certainly guaranteed a place in the individual 100m squad for Beijing.

She said: "Getting into the individual 100m squad is certainly what I have been aiming for, as well as the relay team.

"Now I have run one of the best times in the world this year they have got to pick me for the squad. I am still shocked at what I have achieved, but I think I will have to get my head down now and get working hard again as we only have four weeks until the Games."

The 22-year-old, who began her career as a high jumper before an injury forced her to switch to sprinting, is full of confidence ahead of Beijing and has a gold medal finish in her sights.

"I can't really explain my feelings on going to the Olympics," she said. "It is a dream come true. It is every athlete's aim. I never imagined I would get to the Games and to compete in an individual event for my first-ever Games is beyond my dreams.

"I am going for gold, but after the time I have set I am going to have to raise my game. I am definitely going to make the most of my experience and get as much out of it as I can. The sky's the limit as far as I am concerned. I had been hoping to make the semi-finals, but with this confidence boost I believe I can get to the final and I believe I deserve a medal."

Douglas suffered a pulled hamstring eight weeks ago – an injury she puts down to the amount of effort she has been putting in with coach Ayo Falola in training.

"This year, because of the Olympics, I have been putting in so much work in training," she said. "Not like I have not been taking training seriously, but I have been giving that bit extra which meant I have been picking up lots of little niggles. In my first race eight weeks ago I pulled my hamstring, so I can't really believe where I am now."

Before leaving for a training camp in Macau with the Great Britain Olympic team on August 2, Douglas will compete against the world's best at the London Grand Prix next weekend.

Ashford's Lisa Dobriskey has also been named in the Great Britain athletics squad after winning the final of the 1,500m at the National Championships and Great Britain Trials at Birmingham last Saturday.

Dobriskey timed her 1,500m final to perfection, pacing herself until the last 400m where she used her extra pace to claim victory in a time of four minutes and 15 seconds.

The Beijing Games will be the Commonwealth champion's first Olympics and she is eagerly awaiting her chance to impress at Beijing.

Dobriskey will also be competing in the London Grand Prix next weekend before leaving for the Macau training camp.

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